

U.S. jet asked to land in Sana'a

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Pentagon spokesman Michael Burch said a military-chartered U.S. jet transport aircraft, which was instructed Wednesday to land temporarily in Sana'a, the capital of the Yemen Arab Republic, subsequently proceeded on its routine flight and landed on the island of Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean in the early morning of Thursday. The plane, he said, a DC-8 belonging to Arrow Airlines which had been chartered by the U.S. military airlift command to transport replacement personnel to the island, was "directed by air traffic controllers" of North Yemen to land in Sana'a because of what the air traffic controllers said were "recurrent violations of airspace." Mr. Burch said he did not know what that referred to and added that "it is not known at this time if the aircraft actually deviated from its intended flight plan." The civilian pilot of the plane, the spokesman said, "decided to comply with the air traffic control instructions that had been issued."

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جوردان تايمز: مؤسسة الصحافة الأردنية "الرأي"

Kuwait defence chief returns home

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwaiti Defence Minister Sheikh Salem Al Sabah has returned home after a 10-day official visit to the Soviet Union, during which he reached agreement in principle to buy Soviet weapons to help defend Kuwait. The Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) quoted him as saying on his arrival Thursday night that the trip had met its political and military objectives. It also included a four-day stay in Hungary. Arab diplomatic sources in Moscow have said the arms deal with the Soviet Union could be worth more than \$300 million. Diplomats here believed his trip to Hungary was in return for an earlier visit to Kuwait by officials from Budapest.

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Noted Palestinian figure dies

AMMAN (J.T.) — Mohammad Izzat Darwazah, a prominent Palestinian figure, and historian, Thursday passed away in Damascus at the age of 96. Mr. Darwazah was born in Nablus and took part in establishing the Istiklal (Independence) Party in Palestine in 1936 and participated in the 1936 revolution in Palestine. Mr. Darwazah wrote many books and did a number of researches.

Arafat ends Brunei visit

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat Friday flew out of the tiny oil-rich Sultanate of Brunei after a one-day official visit, state officials said. They said Mr. Arafat left the Borneo island state shortly after attending Friday prayers with Sultan Sir Muda Hassan Bolkiah at a mosque in Bandar Seri Begawan, the capital. The officials declined to name Mr. Arafat's next destination. Mr. Arafat earlier visited the Maldives, Malaysia and Indonesia.

Polisario says 33 Moroccans killed

PARIS (R) — Guerrillas fighting for the independence of the Western Sahara killed 33 Moroccan soldiers and wounded 42 in four attacks this week, the Algerian news agency APS reported Friday. The attacks brought to 60 the number of operations Algerian-backed Polisario guerrillas say they have carried out in the past two months, killing about 700 Moroccans and wounding 300. They have given no details of their own casualties.

U.K. court clears air force telegraphist

LONDON (R) — British air force telegraphist Paul Davies was acquitted Friday of passing secrets to a glamorous Hungarian woman in return for sex. A jury found him not guilty on three charges of passing on information of use to an enemy while stationed in Cyprus last September. The prosecution had alleged that Mr. Davies, 21, was lured by "sexual anticipation and blackmail" to divulge classified signals used by the multinational peacekeeping force in Beirut.

S. Arabia sends message to Egypt

CAIRO (R) — Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal has congratulated Egypt's new foreign minister, Esmat Abdul Meguid, on his appointment in a cabinet formed this month. Egyptian officials said Friday, The Saudis, like most Arab League members, severed formal diplomatic relations with Egypt following its 1979 treaty with Israel, but informal ties have been gradually rebuilt. The officials said the head of the Saudi interests section at the Pakistani embassy here, Mohammad Shoury, met Mr. Meguid Thursday and conveyed special congratulations from Prince Saud.

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Hussein meets members of new royal commission King calls for most effective civil service re-organisation

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Thursday urged a newly-set up royal commission charged with re-organising the civil service system in Jordan to make good use of manpower on a sound basis in order to arrive at the best possible results. He said that reforms should be carried out in a sound and responsible manner so as to give momentum to the development process in Jordan.

King Hussein was speaking at a meeting Thursday with the commission members at the Royal Court.

At the outset of the meeting King Hussein referred to the challenges which Jordan and the Arab Nation are now facing and stressed the need to confront these challenges with efficiency and potency.

"We must always set a good example for others, and therefore we must re-examine our course of work and the administrative system into which we must breathe new life, the King said. "We must also co-ordinate all efforts on all levels so that we can handle our affairs in a clear and open-minded manner," he said.

"Sound and equitable distribution and employment of manpower produces the best results and deepens the sense of belonging to the country," King Hussein added.

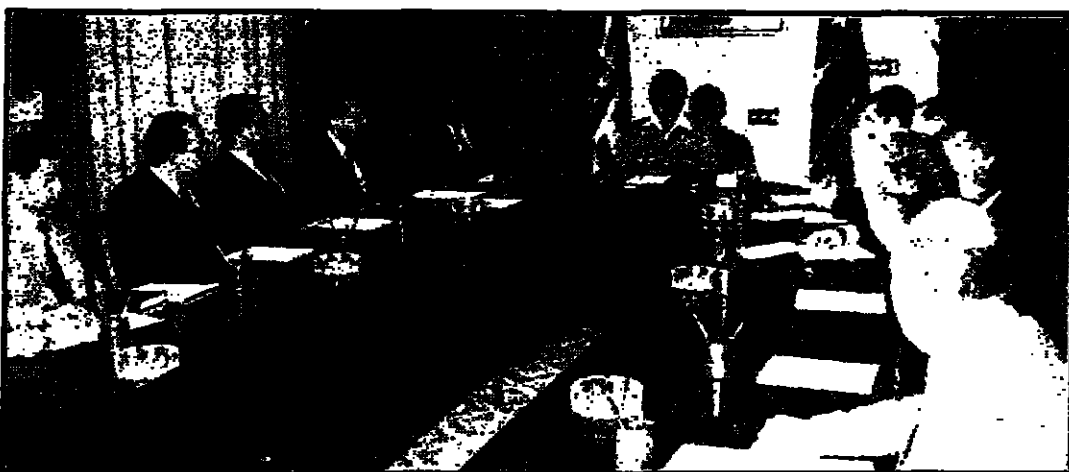
King Hussein said that modernisation of laws is an inevitable process to give impetus to the continuation of a sound civil service system and the respect of laws and regulations by citizens deepens the sense of belonging to the country. He voiced hope that the committee will embark on its task as soon as possible and wished its members success.

At the meeting, Prime Minister Ahmad 'Obeidat, head of the commission, presented a briefing to King Hussein on a programme which the committee intends to carry out. He said that the committee will conform to the wishes and directives of the King so as to continue the process of construction started by the King.

The committee realises the grave responsibility of the task it is undertaking and its great benefit for the nation, the prime minister said.

The meeting was attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Chief of the Royal Court Marwan Al Qasem and Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh.

The 10-member committee was set up at the directives of King Hussein in a message addressed to Mr. 'Obeidat Wednesday. The message directed the committee to make a comprehensive appraisal of Jordan's civil service system with a view to introducing basic improvements and carrying out a general re-organisation.



His Majesty King Hussein Thursday holds a meeting with members of a newly set up royal commission charged with re-organising Jordan's civil service system (Petra photo)

Iraq denies Iranians shot down its plane

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq described as "absolutely unfounded" an Iranian claim to have shot down an Iraqi warplane over the Gulf Thursday.

A military spokesman also told the Iraqi news agency (INA) that Iraqi air force jets were not in action over the Gulf or any other war sector Thursday.

A Tehran military communique Thursday claimed an Iraqi aircraft, a Super-Endur fighter-bomber, was shot down by an Iranian jet fighter when it intruded into Iranian air space.

The communique did not pinpoint where the plane was shot down.

This was the first time Iran has claimed it had shot down a Super-Endur used by Iraq, which has made numerous attacks on tankers using Kharg Island in an attempt to strangle Tehran's economic lifeline.

Another Iraqi military communique issued Friday reported an Iranian attack repulsed on the northern front with 68 Iraqis killed and some arms and equipment seized. It also said Iraqi helicopter gunships hit Iranian positions east of Basra, on the southern front, where Iran has long-awaited new offensive.

Meanwhile in Oslo, shipping sources said the main loading jetty at Iran's Kharg Island oil terminal is still out of action after an Iraqi missile attack last month but is expected to re-open soon.

They told Reuters the sea island jetty on the west side of Kharg Island had been badly damaged in the June 24 attack, in which the Greek oil tanker Alexander the Great was also hit, and none of the largest crude oil tankers had used it since.

The sources, who asked not to be named, said tankers were loading on the east side of Kharg Island, but jetties there could only take vessels weighing up to 260,000 deadweight tonnes (dwt) — the weight when fully loaded with cargo, stores and crew.

The sea island jetty can deal with tankers up to 500,000 dwt. Diplomats in Tehran said earlier this month that Iran had closed the sea island jetty after it was slightly damaged in the June 24 attack.

35 killed, 200 injured in four days of Tripoli fighting

TRIPOLI, Lebanon (R) — The death toll in four days of fighting between pro- and anti-Syrian militias in the north Lebanese port of Tripoli has risen to about 35 with the discovery of more bodies Friday, security sources said.

The clashes subsided Thursday evening after a reconciliation meeting attended by representatives of the main combatants, the Sunni fundamentalist "Islamic Unification Movement" (Tawheed) and the pro-Syrian Arab Democratic Party (ADP).

Some 200 people have been wounded in the city since Thursday, most of them by sniper fire or in indiscriminate shelling of residential areas, the sources said.

Normal life began to return Friday to some of the districts worst affected by the clashes. Shops reopened in the Qubbah area, an ADP stronghold, and light traffic moved along the main coast road through the city of 200,000 people.

Tawheed, the dominant militia in Lebanon's second city, has a longstanding feud with the ADP, a small party with roots in the city's

community of Alawite Muslim immigrants from Syria.

The sources said Tawheed was insisting that school-leaving examinations be held in an area under its control. The exams normally take place in a university building in ADP-held territory.

In Beirut, the Education Ministry postponed exams in northern Lebanon because of the violence and in the south because Israeli occupation forces had prevented exam papers from reaching the region, ministry sources told Reuters.

The ministry had asked the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) to transfer the sealed exams by helicopter from Beirut to the south. But UNIFIL declined after Israel objected, ministry officials said.

Beirut Radio speculated the Israeli action was linked to the closure Wednesday of Israel's "liaison office" north of Beirut, which had served as the only direct link between the two governments.

Lebanese President Amin Gemayel raised Israel's action Thursday with U.S. Ambassador

Reginald Bartholomew. Lebanese Television reported.

Prime Minister Rashid Karami returned Thursday night from talks in Damascus with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad on the fighting in Tripoli, his home town, which is surrounded by Syrian troops. So far the Syrians have not intervened (Syrian endorsement clears way for Beirut security plan, page 2).

Official sources said Mr. Karami would fly to Saudi Arabia Saturday on his first visit there since he became prime minister in April. Lebanese and regional developments would top Mr. Karami's agenda, the sources added.

Saudi Arabia has played a key mediating role in Lebanon and is seen as a major potential donor of economic aid.

An all-party security committee, which had tried to introduce several ceasefires during the past four consecutive days of fighting in Tripoli, agreed on a total ceasefire Thursday at 3 p.m. (1200 GMT), and it appeared to be holding Friday.

'No urgent talks planned for Arab ministers'

TUNIS (Petra) — Arab League sources Thursday described as "incorrect and groundless" a report published by the Tunisian Al Sabah newspaper that an emergency meeting of Arab foreign ministers has been scheduled to prepare for the next Arab Summit in the Saudi Arabian capital, Riyadh.

The sources confirmed that a number of Arab foreign ministers are expected to arrive in Tunis within the next three days to take part in the meetings of the Arab League Council's ministerial committees, which will start here Monday.

It has been confirmed that meetings of an Arab League committee on the Arab-Israeli conflict will be postponed to a date to be fixed later.

The decision to postpone the meeting, which was due to open Monday, was taken in response to a request by the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, Libya,

the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Syria.

Meetings of two other committees, one in charge of amending the Arab League Charter and the other on the Iran-Iraq war will be held on Monday.

Taking part in the meetings of the two committees will be delegations representing Jordan, Tunisia, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Kuwait, the Yemen Arab Republic, Lebanon, Somalia, Syria, Algeria and Sudan.

Many votes went to Shinui, since resident Zeidan Atsile was third on its list.

On the whole, the alignment won as many votes as it did in 1981 — but that was not good enough because it did not win the votes which went instead to its affiliated lists. Nor did it manage to attract more voters to compensate for the increase in the size of the Arab electorate.

Benjamin Gur-Arye, the prime minister's adviser on Arab affairs, noted in a conversation with the

Jerusalem Post that the DFPE was only several hundred votes short of its fifth mandate in the 1981 elections. This time they received enough votes for four mandates and have a surplus. Thus they just about kept their supporters, Mr. Gur-Arye noted.

Arab affairs expert Zvi Elpeleg said he had attended several PLP rallies in Arab villages where speakers talked of "the return" of the Palestinian refugees. The party's letter Peh on the ballot slip also

stands for "Falastin."

Above all, both the DFPE and the PLP vied for the Palestine Liberation Organisation's support and advocated the establishment of a Palestinian state side by side with Israel.

The PLP picked up many beduin votes in the Negev. Suleiman Al Badour, secretary of the beduin section of the alignment in Beersheba, told the Post. "This was clearly a protest vote," he said. — The Jerusalem Post.



Mohammad Ibn Sulayem of the United Arab Emirates (inset) races his Toyota Celica through the desert in one of the special stages of the Jordan Rally Friday (Photo by Fernando Francis)

Mohammad Ibn Sulayem races Toyota to victory in Jordan Rally

By P.V. Vivekanand
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Mohammad Ibn Sulayem of the United Arab Emirates, behind the wheels of a turbo-charged Toyota Celica, raced to victory Friday in the fourth Jordan International Rally beating his teammate Michel Saleh of Kuwait in the Toyota-Marlboro team and Saeed Al Hajri of Qatar to second and third places respectively.

Mr. Mohammad and his co-driver Hassan Al Taleb, who gained the lead on the first leg of the rally managed to maintain and increase it on the second leg beating Mr. Saleh and navigator Antoine Samia, who were behind the wheel of an identical car which played an unpredictable game of retaining and relinquishing the second position.

It was an upset victory for Mr. Mohammad and Mr. Saleh over Mr. Hajri and his co-driver John Spiller, the reigning Middle East Rally champion team, whose Rothmans Porsche 911 SCRS was hit by several disasters, including three overturning during the two-day rally. The overturnings could not undermine the determination of the Qatari and his navigator who managed to put their car back on track and race away.

The rally, organised by the Royal Automobile Club of Jordan (RAC) and co-sponsored by the

Amman Marriott and Pepsi-Cola, was held on four phases, involving a total distance of 1,200 kilometres in two days. The first car took off Thursday morning for the ancient city of Petra covering a distance of about 300 kilometres through special stages and road sections and returned to the starting point, the Marriott Hotel, same evening, only to repeat the performance on Friday.

Thirty cars, ranging from Porsche, Toyota and Nissan to Land Rover, Mercedes and Opel, were flagged away Thursday morning by His Highness Prince Abdullah, a motor sport enthusiast himself, who has taken part in Jordan's national rallies earlier this year.

The final tally showed that only 12 of the 30 cars could finish the gruelling endurance and speed test on the special stages in the desert. On the first day 13 cars dropped out of the rally, including another favourite, Abbas Al Mosawi, driving a Porsche exactly identical to that of Mr. Hajri. Mr. Mosawi, who has competed in several rallies in the Gulf along with Mr. Hajri, was driving for the Gulf Air-Porsche team. Because of a major engine snag in an early stage the enthusiast from Qatar has to opt out.

One of the favourite Jordanian teams, George Haddad and his brother Nabil driving a Toyota Celica, had to retire during one of the earlier stages of the rally because of an accident in which

Nabil's wrist was broken.

Another team, Tony Georgiou and David Porter — Omani entrants to the Jordan Rally — had a miraculous escape when their Nissan 240 RS hit a rock, somersaulted and landed on its back in one of the special stages near Petra.

Broken axles, damaged gears and burnt engine heads were some of the most heard-of reasons for the large percentage of dropouts.

Haile Aguiar, manager of the Marriott Hotel and veteran of a number of international rallies, who was co-piloted by his son Gonzalo, drew the loudest applause by managing to finish the rally despite being hit by a major gear problem on the first day. The problem deprived Mr. Aguiar of valuable time in addition to being imposed a penalty period of 30 minutes, the maximum allowable under the rally's regulations. However, he drove on and finished the rally with sheer determination and skill.

The results given to the Jordan Times late Friday night were unofficial and the official results, including the winners of the various groups and classes, will be announced Saturday.

One of the highlights of the 1984 Jordan Rally, the fourth qualifying round for the year's Middle East Rally championship, was the presence of officials from international motor sports federations as observers.

Labour, Likud hold intense coalition talks

TEL AVIV (AP) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's Likud bloc and Shimon Peres' opposition Labour Party got down to serious bargaining Friday on forming a new government after final election results were tallied.

Both parties are seeking the support of the 13 small parties which won seats in the 120-member Knesset, or parliament, so they can get the 61-seat majority they need for forming a government.

After the count was finalised Thursday, Israel Radio reported that the Likud bloc had 41 seats against 44 seats won by Labour.

The final results, based on the tallying of the soldiers' vote, represented a loss of one seat for Labour and a boost of one seat for Likud's ally Tehiya, a party favouring annexation of the occupied West Bank.

The two major parties focused on five small parties that could

decide which of the two large blocs will form the next government.

Israeli newspapers agreed Friday that the pivotal decision rested on former Defence Minister Ezer Weizman, whose centrist Yahad (together) party got three seats in the Knesset.

Analysts speculated that Mr. Weizman's decision could sway the one-man ethnic Tami party which claims to represent Sephardi Jews of North African origin and the National Religious Party which got four seats.

All three small parties have publicly demanded that the big parties try to form a bipartisan government with the broadest possible parliamentary support so that it has the power to enact some pressing economic legislation to halt Israel's 400 per cent inflation.

Israelis seek way to counter Kahane, page 2

2 Israelis wounded in attack

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Two Israeli soldiers were wounded Friday when a grenade was thrown at their checkpoint in the South Lebanese town of Nabatiyeh, the Associated Press quoted Israeli military sources as saying in Tel Aviv.

The sources, who asked not to be named, said they had no further details on the attack but witnesses said they saw the soldiers being evacuated on stretchers.

Pro-Israelis attacked

A resistance commando hurled a hand grenade at a half-tracked vehicle belonging to a pro-Israeli militia in South Lebanon, seriously wounding two of its occupants, eyewitnesses quoted by Reuters said.

They said the youth escaped after the attack, which took place on the road between Nabatiyeh and Marjayoun, a village near the Israeli border where the pro-Israeli "South Lebanon army" has its headquarters.

Israeli troops blocked the road and arrested several people but released them after questioning, the witnesses added.

However, Israeli forces later closed 20 shops in Nabatiyeh, 24 kilometres southeast of Sidon, and painted red signs on the shutters ordering the shopkeepers to stay closed for three weeks.

The Israelis said the action was to "punish" the shopkeepers for refusing information about the grenade attack, the witnesses said.

Syrian endorsement clears way for Beirut security plan

BEIRUT (R) — Syria has endorsed the second stage of the Lebanese government's security plan for Beirut, clearing the way for the deployment of a new mixed force along the old "Green Line" Saturday.

The endorsement came during Prime Minister Rashid Karami's talks Thursday in Damascus, during which Syrian President Hafez Al Assad said he was committed to help Lebanon resolve all its security problems, official sources said Friday.

The sources were speaking at the Lebanese Presidential Palace outside Beirut after Mr. Karami briefed President Amin Gemayel on the results of his consultations in Syria.

Under the security plan, regular troops drawn from the Sixth Brigade, the Fifth Brigade and the mixed Third Brigade will move into a buffer zone down the centre of the city Saturday morning.

New roads between the east and west of the city will re-open and

militiamen who enter the zone armed will be liable to arrest, the sources said.

In the first stage of the security plan, implemented earlier this month, rival militias pulled out of some frontline positions and withdrew most of their heavy weapons from the city.

But plans to re-integrate Muslim and Christian units of the fragmented Lebanese army came to nothing and militia barricades prevented the full re-unification of the capital.

The latest change on the ground took place Thursday, when the mainly Druse Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) and the Falangist Lebanese Forces disengaged forces on the southeastern edge of Beirut.

Mr. Karami will miss the deployment Saturday because of a 24-hour visit to the Saudi city of Jeddah, where he is expected to ask King Fahd for reconstruction aid.

The northern port of Tripoli, scene of heavy fighting this week between pro- and anti-Syrian militias, is not covered by the security plan, but the government does have long-term plans to have the Lebanese army maintain law and order there.

In Central west Beirut, a small explosive device blew up close to a cinema where Mr. Karami, Shi'ite leader Nabih Berri and PSP leader Walid Junblatt had planned to attend a rally Friday to celebrate the anniversary of the Egyptian revolution of 1952.

The device caused little damage and no casualties, police said. The organisers of the rally said they had cancelled it for security reasons.



ARAFAT IN JAKARTA: Chairman of Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Yasser Arafat (right) hugs Indonesian President Suharto at the Merdeka Palace Wednesday. Mr. Arafat arrived in Jakarta for talks with Indonesian leaders on the latest development in the Middle East including the Iran-Iraq war (AP wirephoto)

Jordan to attend African solidarity conference

TUNIS (Petra) — Jordan will take part in a conference on solidarity with the struggle of liberation movements in southern Africa due to open in Tunis on Aug. 7.

Jordan's ambassador to Tunisia Nabih Al Nimer and the embassy's First Secretary Mohammad Tawfiq will represent Jordan at the conference.

The conference which will last three days will be held under the slogan of "Arab Solidarity with

the Struggle of the People of Southern Africa for Liberation."

Among the topics for discussion will be ways for bolstering support for the struggle of the peoples of southern Africa, ways to combat racial discrimination and dangers emanating from an alliance between Israel and South Africa.

African and Arab countries are represented in the conference which will be attended also by several world organisations.

Israel to try four Arabs

AMMAN (Petra) — Four Arabs, aged between 21 and 26, will be tried before an Israeli Military court in the occupied Arab town of Lod, Radio Israel Thursday said.

The four youths, Adel Kilab, Adel Sikil, Ahmad Saffouri and Hafez Qandas who are all res-

idents of Jaffa have been arrested by the Israeli authorities a few weeks ago under the charge of planning for launching resistance campaigns against the Israeli entity in occupied Palestine.

The Israeli authorities also accused them of attacking some military bases near Jaffa last April.

Libya accused of torturing to death Norwegian sailor

OSLO (R) — Police investigators said Thursday 32-year-old Norwegian sailor was tortured to death by Libyan authorities while his ship was detained in Tripoli in May.

They told a press conference after flying to the Mediterranean to question the crew of his ship that able seaman Bjorn Pedersen died because of "prolonged physical maltreatment inflicted by representatives of the Libyan authorities" in Tripoli about the middle of that month.

The Norwegian Foreign Ministry said it had made an official protest to Libya over the incident involving the 1,592-ton cargo ship Germa Lionel.

"We are shocked by this incident and condemn in the strongest possible terms what happened to Pedersen and the rest of the crew of the Germa Lionel," State Secretary Thorbjorn Froeynes said.

Libyan authorities gave conflicting reasons for the sailor's death.

The police investigators said Pedersen was alone on duty when Libyan officials boarded the ship, saying they had seen light signals from the ship to the shore.

No evidence of such signals had been found, the investigators said.

Pedersen was last seen alive when he was driven away by two unidentified men on May 13.

Spain expels Iranian diplomat

MADRID (R) — Spain Thursday ordered the expulsion of an Iranian diplomat in connection with the arrest of four other Iranians accused of planning terrorist attacks.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman said Iranian Ambassador Abdolkarim Sanei was given the choice of waiving the diplomatic immunity of press and cultural attaché Mohammad Jafar Niknam to stand trial and had told the ministry his government would prefer expulsion.

The 28-year-old diplomat was given 24 hours to leave Spain, he said.

Mr. Niknam is accused of involvement in the activities of the four, described by the Interior

Ministry as international terrorists who were preparing attacks against a Saudi Air Lines plane and an unidentified person.

Police said the suspected members of the radical Shi'ite group "Martyrs of the Islamic Revolution" planned a hijack and an attack against an opponent of the Tehran government.

Both Ambassador Sanei and the ministry officials said they did not expect the incident to affect good relations between Iran and Spain, the spokesman added.

Iran Thursday denied Spanish claims that it was involved in an alleged plot to attack a Saudi airliner and an opponent of the Tehran government.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman

described the accusations as a Zionist plot against Iran and an attempt to mar friendly relations between the two countries.

The Iranian statement, issued before reports of the attaché's expulsion, said it was not the first time Iran had been subjected to such accusations. The fact that the information in the case came from Zionist intelligence sources showed that it was a Zionist plot, the Foreign Ministry statement said.

It expressed surprise over statements by Spanish officials and said, "we believe that plans of the espionage organisations and plots of agents of oppressors will not affect the friendly and growing relations between Iran and Spain."

McFarlane: U.S. will not move embassy

WASHINGTON (USIA) — National Security Adviser Robert McFarlane re-assured Christian ministers at the White House July 25 that President Reagan will not move the U.S. embassy in Israel to occupied Jerusalem or change the status of the independent U.S. consulate there.

The eight ministers represented 17 other ministers and lay persons from churches and church organisations that claim more than 100 million members in the United States.

Earlier, the entire group of 25 held a prayer breakfast at the Capitol to express the support of their churches for the Reagan administration's position on opposing bills to move the embassy from Tel Aviv and change the status of the consulate.

The breakfast was attended by

about 15 members of Congress — including Representatives Tom Lantos and Ben Gilman, co-authors of a bill in the House of Representatives to move the embassy. About 100 other persons attended.

The eight who met with Mr. McFarlane represented the United Methodist Church, the United Church of Christ, the Episcopal Church, the American Lutheran Church, the Roman Catholic Church, the Antiochian Orthodox Church, the National Association of Evangelicals, and the National Council of Churches. A minister from the United Presbyterian Church was unable to attend.

President Reagan, who is away from Washington, asked Mr. McFarlane to meet with the eight ministers, according to Irene

Hansen of the Antiochian Orthodox Church. Mr. McFarlane talked privately with the group for about an hour on a wide range of issues.

The ministers told Mr. McFarlane that their churches oppose any move or change in the status of U.S. diplomatic offices in Jerusalem, according to Hansen. They said the bill offered by Rep. Lantos and Rep. Gilman should receive no further action in Congress, including passage as a non-binding resolution.

They expressed support for President Reagan's September, 1982, peace initiative for the Middle East.

Afterward, some of the 25 church representatives called on members of their denominations in Congress and discussed the Middle East and other matters.

Israelis seek ways to counter Kahane

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli politicians, alarmed by the election to parliament of extremist Rabbi Meir Kahane, are seeking legal means to paralyse his anti-Arab movement.

The unexpected election of the New York-born Kahane in last Monday's election brought denunciations of his campaign to expel Israel's 650,000 Arab citizens and the 1.3 million Palestinians in the occupied territories and to deprive non-Jews of the vote.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said Kahane's policies were "repugnant and utterly in contradiction to Jewish and Zionist values."

Teddy Kollek, mayor of Jerusalem which includes more than 100,000 Arabs in the eastern sector captured by Israel in 1967, has called for legislation outlawing racism.

"It probably won't be possible to unseat Kahane because of our democratic system of government, but we can outlaw his policies and thus paralyse his racist movement," Mr. Kollek said.

A spokesman for the left-wing Civil Rights Movement said action against Kahane must be carefully considered "in view of the possible implications and dangers to our democracy."

"We regard him as a racist but he won in democratic elections

and we must find legal means to counter his poison," the spokesman said.

The centrist Shinui (Change) Party said one of its first acts in the new parliament would be to table an anti-racist proposal aimed directly at Kahane.

"All of us in the Knesset (parliament) are lined up against Kahane," a Shinui spokesman said. "In fact, he may be the only issue we all agree on. But he was legally elected and he does enjoy parliamentary immunity."

Police investigated whether they could prosecute Kahane and a band of followers who marched through Jerusalem's Arab Market after the elections.

Shouting "Arabs out" and smashing shopfronts and sidewalk furniture, they carried the 51-year-old rabbi on their shoulders. Police have apparently been told Kahane already has parliamentary immunity from prosecution.

Justice Ministry officials said immunity began as soon as a member was elected.

Dozens of members of Jewish religious organisations marched through Arab Jerusalem Thursday carrying posters and distributing leaflets proclaiming "peace and brotherhood."

"We wanted our Arab neighbours to know Kahane does not represent Jewry or Judaism or Zionism and that the great maj-

ority of us want to live at peace with all people," an organiser said.

On Thursday Arabs in Galilee issued a warning to extremist Rabbi Meir Kahane not to visit them and called for legal action against him.

The Galilee Arab village of Um-Al-Faham in northern Israel issued the statement and appealed to the attorney-general to take action against Kahane.

In Washington, the U.S. citizenship of New York-born Kahane could be called into question as a result of his election to the Israeli Parliament, State Department officials said Thursday.

Spokesman Alan Romberg told a briefing he could not speculate on individual cases, but that in general "accepting, serving in, or performing the duties of any office, post, or employment under the government of a foreign state" may result in loss of U.S. citizenship.

Decisions under U.S. nationality laws were reached on an individual basis and the State Department routinely examined cases as soon as a potentially expatriating act, such as serving in a foreign government, had occurred, he said.

State Department officials, who declined to be identified, said that in the case of Kahane, 51, a review probably would begin after he had been sworn into parliament.

U.S. praise for Syria limited, officials say

WASHINGTON (R) — Unprecedented American praise for Syria this week does not signify a breakthrough in U.S. relations with the country which President Reagan has accused of "terrorism and troublemaking," officials say.

The favourable comments merely recognised Syria's recent restrained behaviour in Lebanon and did not deal with a broader Middle East scenario, according to State Department officials.

"There is some significance in the narrow context of Lebanon," an official said. But he added: "We have trouble (with Syria) in the wider area. We just don't know what they are doing."

Congressmen reacted with surprise and some with indignation when Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy told a House of Representatives Committee on Wednesday that "Syria has been one of the helpful players" in recent Lebanese reconciliation efforts.

State Department Spokesman Alan Romberg made a similar comment at a briefing Thursday. Mr. Romberg said there had been encouraging developments

in Lebanon in recent weeks, citing a recognition by various factions of the need to re-establish law and order in Beirut.

He said the Lebanese had been instrumental in achieving progress and Israeli leaders also wished to resolve the security problem and bring their troops home.

"Syria too, in recent weeks, has begun to play a more helpful role in the security situation in the Beirut area and assisting the process of reconciliation in contrast to its actions in the past," he said.

He stressed that U.S. policy had not changed in any way, saying: "We support a strengthening of the central Lebanese government, Lebanese national reconciliation, a Lebanon free of external forces and security for Israel's northern border."

Mr. Murphy, head of the State Department's Bureau of Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs, said the United States remained concerned about Soviet ties to Syria.

But his testimony was in striking contrast to administration condemnation of Syria, earlier this year.

The United States had called Syria the stumbling block to peace in Lebanon and said it was partly responsible for the killing of 241 U.S. Marines in a Beirut suicide bombing last October.

Mr. Reagan said in February that Syria was bent on territorial conquest in Lebanon and in March that it was trying to lead "a radical effort to dominate the region through terrorism and intimidation aimed, in particular, at America's friends."

Congressman Robert Torricelli, a Democrat from New Jersey, said Mr. Murphy's remarks on Syrian helpfulness were inappropriate and unfortunate in the light of the Marine massacre.

But State Department officials said Syria appeared to be interested in calming Lebanon and this coincided with a U.S. desire for reconciliation among warring Lebanese factions.

"We don't think Syria could have imposed reconciliation but to our minds it could not be happening if they opposed it," one said. "They must be putting their weight behind it."

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION

MAIN CHANNEL

17:30 Koran
17:40 Cartoons
18:00 Children Programme
18:25 Documentary on Nature
18:55 Children Programme
19:20 Programme Review
19:30 Local Programme
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Arabic Series
21:15 Newsweek Reel
21:30 Arabic Play
22:10 Arabic Play
22:30 Play Continued
23:10 Play Continued

FOREIGN CHANNEL

18:00 French Programme
19:00 News in French
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:30 Country Diary of an Edwardian Lady

RADIO JORDAN

855 KHz, AM & 99 MHz, FM
& partly on 95.60 KHz, SW

07:00 Light Music
07:30 News in English
08:00 Morning Show
08:30 News Summary
09:00 Morning Show
09:30 News Summary
10:00 Pop Session
10:30 News Summary
11:00 News Summary
11:30 News Summary
12:00 News Summary
12:30 News Summary
13:00 News Summary
13:30 News Summary
14:00 News Summary
14:30 Jordan Weekly
15:00 Music
15:30 Concert Hour
16:00 News Summary
16:30 Instrumentals
17:00 Old Favourites
17:30 Special Feature
18:00 Music
18:30 News Summary
19:00 Top Twenty
19:30 News Summary
20:00 Date with a Star
20:30 Good Old Days
21:00 Just A Minute
21:30 News Summary
22:00 Country Music
22:30 News Summary
23:00 Play of the Week
23:30 News Summary
24:00 Classical Concert
24:30 News Headlines

BBC WORLD SERVICE

639, 720, 1413 KHz

06:00 Newsweek 06:30 That's Trud 06:45
Financial News 06:55 Reflections 07:00
World News 07:05 24 Hours News
Summary 07:15 About Britain The
World Today 08:00 Newsweek 08:30
Album Time 09:00 World News 09:05
24 Hours News Summary 09:30 News
on the Weekends 09:45 Network UK 10:00
World News 10:05 Reflections 10:15
People's Choice 10:30 Brain of Britain
10:45 10:00 World News 10:59 British
Press Review 11:15 The World Today
11:30 Financial News 11:40 Look
Ahead 11:45 People and Politics 12:15
Letter from America 12:30 My Music
12:40 World News 12:59 News About
Britain 13:15 About Britain 13:30 Mer-
idian 14:00 Radio Newsweek 14:15 Tro-
oping the Colour 14:45 Sports Round-
up 15:00 World News 15:09 24 Hours
News Summary 15:30 Network UK
15:45 Saturday Special 17:00 Radio
Newsweek 17:15 Saturday Special 18:15
Saturday Special 19:00 News Summary
19:02 Saturday Special 19:15 Baker's
Half Dozen 19:45 Sports Round-up
20:00 Newsweek 20:30 Play of the Week
Richard III 21:30 Album Time 22:00
World News 22:05 24 Hours News
Summary 22:30 Journey Into Hope
22:15 Wimbledon Preview 23:30 People
and Politics 24:00 World News 06:00
From our own Correspondent 06:30
New Ideas 06:40 Reflections

VOICE OF AMERICA

1260 MW, 7200, 9565, 11740 11925
and 15210 KHz

06:00 VOA Morning News on the
hour; news summaries; daily business
report; science and medicine; sports
reports; editorial; world and U.S. op-
inion roundups; documentary analysis;
American viewpoints; features 17:00
News 17:10 This Week 17:30 Special
English News and Features 18:00 News
18:10 American Viewpoints 18:30 Press
Conference USA 19:00 News 19:10 This
Week 19:20 Special English News 19:30
Features 20:00 News 20:30 Weekend
Survey of World News, Cor-
respondent's Reports, Music, Cultural
Events and Features 21:00 News 21:10
American Viewpoints 21:30 Press Con-
ference USA 22:00 News 22:10 Special
English News 22:30 News and Editorial
Survey of World News, Cor-
respondent's Reports, Music, Cultural
Events and Features

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS

* Exhibition of paintings by Eng. Layla Boustani at the Royal Cultural Centre.
* Exhibition of a collection of paintings by local and international artists at Alia Art Gallery.

FILM

* Film (for children): "Les Aventures de umia: Objectif lune"

CULTURAL CENTRES

Royal Cultural Centre . Tel. 6610267
American Centre . 44371
British Council . 41520
British Council . 36147-8
French Cultural Centre . 37009
Goethe Institute . 41993
Soviet Cultural Centre . 24049
Spanish Cultural Centre . 39777
Hussein Youth City . 667181
Y.W.C.A. . 41793
Y.W.M.C.A. . 664251
Amman Municipal Library . 36111
University of Jordan Library . 843555

MUSEUMS

Refikore Museum: Jewelry and com-
mon over 100 years old. Also mosaics
from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th
centuries). The Roman Theatre.
Amman. Opening hours: 9.00 a.m. - 5
p.m. Year-round. Tel. 51760.
Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an
excellent collection of antiquities of
Jordan. Jabal Al Qal'a (Cliffside Hill).
Opening hours: 9.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m.
(Fridays and official holidays 10.00 a.m.
4.00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.
Jordan National Gallery: Contains a col-
lection of paintings, ceramics, and scul-
ptures by contemporary Islamic artists
from most of the Muslim countries, and a
collection of paintings by 19th century
orientalist artists. Monaster, Jabal
Luwaddeh. Opening hours: 10.00 a.m.
1.30 p.m. and 3.30 p.m. - 6.00 p.m.
Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 30128.

AMMAN AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Alia in-
formation department at the Queen Alia
International Airport, tel. (08) 53250,
53070, 53082, 53171, where it should
always be verified.

ARRIVALS

05:50 Cairo (MS)
09:15 Abu Dhabi (RJ)
09:30 Agaba (RJ)
09:30 Karachi, Dubai (RJ)
09:45 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
09:45 Kuwait (RJ)
09:45 Riyadh (RJ)
09:45 Jerusalem (RJ)
09:45 Dhahran (RJ)
10:00 Beirut (RJ)
10:00 Cairo (RJ)
10:45 Moscow, Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (GF)

SERVICE CLUBS

Lions Amman Club. Meetings every
first and third Wednesday at the Hol-
iday Inn, 1.30 p.m.
Lions Philadelphia Club. Meetings
every second and fourth Wednesday at
the Amman Hotel, 7.30 p.m.
Philadelphia Rotary Club. Meetings
every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn,
1.30 p.m.
Rotary Club. Meetings every Tuesday
at the Intercontinental Hotel, 2.00 p.m.
Royal Automobile Club, Jabal Amman,
Eight Circle. Tel. 815261.

CHURCHES

St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic)
Jabal Amman, Tel. 24590.
Church of the Annunciation (Roman
Catholic) Jabal Luwaddeh, 37440.
De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic)
Jabal Hussein, 661757.
Church of the Annunciation (Greek
Orthodox) Abadi, 23541.
Assiout Church (Church of the Res-
urrection) Jabal Amman, 41559.
Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh,
771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh,
771331.
St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox)
Ashrafieh, 771751.
Armenian International Church (Inter-
denominational): meets at Southern
Baptist School in Shamsi, 663249.

PRAYER TIMES

8:15 Fajr
04:43 (Sunrise) Shura
11:43 Dhuhr
18:24 'Asr
18:37 Maghreb
20:11 Isha

FOR THE TRAVELLER

MARITIME TRAFFIC

Regular-line ships docking at Aqaba
port:

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— Agila Topik
— Yam B
— Mastura Zahabi
— Char Hwa
— Ville Du Levant
— Gok Luck
— Radary
— Saint Marthe
— Pritwalk
— Alaham
— Norec Barbero

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MONEY EXCHANGE

Local selling rates in Jds

Belgian franc 66.5/ 65.9
Dutch guilder 119.1/ 119.8
Egyptian pound 310.3/ 313.5
French franc 43.8/ 44.1
Iraqi dinar 382.3/ 386.3
Italian lire (for 100) 21.3/ 22.1
Japanese yen (for 100) 156.6/ 157.5
Kuwaiti dinar 128.7/ 128.6
Omani rial 1103.6/ 1109
Qatari riyal 104.8/ 103.3
Saudi riyal 109.3/ 109.7
Swedish crown 46/ 46.3
Swiss franc 156.6/ 157.5
Syrian lire 46.5/ 47.2

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of
Meteorology.

It will be normal summer, with nor-
thwest winds moderate to fresh winds. In
Aqaba, it will be lazy, with northerly
fresh winds and sea calm.

Low/high temperature in deg. C:
Amman 16/30
Aqaba 24/36
Dhahran 18/36
Qatari riyal 104.8/ 103.3
Saudi riyal 109.3/ 109.7
Swedish crown 46/ 46.3
Swiss franc 156.6/ 157.5
Syrian lire 46.5/ 47.2

USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.

EMERGENCIES

Ambulance 193, 775111
Fire, fire, police 199
Blind help 77512
Civil Defence rescue 661111
Fire headquarters 22090-3
Police rescue 192, 21111, 37777
Police headquarters 56390-1
Traffic police 36381-2
Electric Power Co. 36381-2

Noor invites Arab children for cultural, educational activities

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor has invited a group of children from Arab countries to visit Jordan in order for them to acquaint themselves with its people, the country's development and archaeology.

About 80 children are expected to come and stay in Jordan from Aug. 12 to Aug. 20 to take part in the country's third Arab Children's Congress. The children, accompanied by their supervisors, will be visiting all governorates and will meet with local children for folkloric activities.

The Jordanian Women's Federation is expected to take charge of organising visits to various governorates where Jordanian children will be waiting for the guests

and will accompany them around their region. Joint folk dances, songs and other traditional activities will be organised for the local and visiting children.

The guests will visit the different governorates separately and will also tour the archaeological sites in Jerash, Amman, Madaba and Karak as well as factories, educational institutions and universities.

Children from all Arab states except Syria, Djibouti and North Yemen took part in the second Arab Children's Congress last year also at the invitation of Queen Noor and it is hoped that all invited children will be able to attend this year's activities.



Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sulaiman Arar discusses public safety and administrative methods with officials from Irbid governorate departments Thursday (Petra photo)

Dawoudieh stresses value of sermons, moral guidance for community benefits

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abed Khalaf Dawoudieh Thursday stressed the need to prepare Friday's sermon precisely and carefully and to link it to the community's situation.

Mr. Dawoudieh, who chaired Thursday's meeting at the Islamic Centre in Amman for the Awqaf directors, orators and preachers in the various governorates of Jordan, outlined the importance of the sermon in dealing with the community's problems. He also stressed the importance of choosing a suitable subject for the sermon and not diversifying its topics.

Mr. Dawoudieh explained the importance of dealing with facts and accurate information in tackling the subjects raised by the sermon. He called on orators to be good examples to their community by pursuing the truth and by using good language.

The aim of the sermon, Mr. Dawoudieh said, is to spread goodwill among people and to expand the spirit of co-operation and sacrifice for the common benefit of all.

The ministry is interested in consolidating moral values and ideals through preaching and guidance, added Mr. Dawoudieh.

The minister then called for the maintenance of mosques and facilities and said that the orators and the congregations attending prayers should pay attention to their appearance according to the teachings of Islam.

The government is interested in developing and looking after the preaching and guidance department, Mr. Dawoudieh continued. It has called for raising the standard of preachers in view of their important role in spreading

the teachings of Islam, accentuating the moral values in people's souls and spreading security and calmness amongst the people, he said.

Speaking about the advisory committee for preaching and guidance affairs, he said that the committee will work towards upgrading the standards of preachers.

The meeting was attended by the director of preaching and guidance at the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, Dr. Ahmad Hillayel, and Mr. Ali Shamayleh, a senior official at the ministry.

Vocational schools tenders issued

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Education has decided to issue tenders for the construction of three vocational schools for girls in Ramtha, Al Husun and Ajloun in Irbid Governorate. The ministry's director of projects, Barakat Al Tarawneh, said that the construction of these vocational schools aims to encourage female students in these areas to pursue vocational careers.



U.S. ENVOY HONOURED — Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri (right) presents outgoing United States Ambassador to Jordan Richard Viets (left) with Jordan's Independence Medal of the First Order bestowed on Mr. Viets by His Majesty King Hussein. The presentation was made Thursday at a luncheon attended by ambassadors, U.S. embassy staff and senior Foreign Ministry officials. In the evening Mr. and Mrs. Viets held a reception to say good bye to friends and colleagues. (Petra photo)

NRA, West Germany to co-operate in oil shale, soil studies programme

AMMAN (J.T.) — West German and Jordanian teams are currently conducting hydrological studies at Lejjoun, southern Jordan, to pave the way for a feasibility study on the exploitation of oil shale from the region.

The teams are from the Natural Resources Authority (NRA) and the West German Geological Survey Service. A NRA spokesman said that the studies are a follow up of those conducted nearly two years ago whose results proved encouraging.

In the light of previous studies, he said, the two sides decided to continue research and to carry out detailed studies aimed at determining the water supplies required for the project. The studies also entail research on the type and amounts of reserve shale and the prospect of its exploitation, he added.

The NRA and West Germany will also co-operate in preparing a

detailed study on the geological, engineering and mechanical aspects of soils and rocks in all areas where roads, public buildings and towns are being built, the spokesman said. He added that the project, expected to take five years to complete starting in 1985, is one of the most significant projects undertaken by the NRA and the first of its kind in the Arab World.

The project entails conducting detailed studies on the characteristics of soil and rock which serve as the foundations for roads and public buildings in order to avoid areas where landslides are likely to occur, the spokesman said.

According to the spokesman, the study will cover various towns and villages, main roads and installations as well as dams and bridges in the country. The aim of the project is to gather precise information about the nature of the

ground on which buildings and roads are to be built or have been built.

He said that the West German government will supply excavators and other equipment needed for the project and for the testing of soil and rock.



Enjoy a dinner party and a real Arabian night in a Bedouin tent, with Gitanes dancers, pipe and rababah music.

On Thursday Aug. 2, 1984 at 8:00 p.m.

The venue is: THE ARABIAN HORSE CLUB (15 kms. south of Amman)

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Tickets Available until Aug. 1, at:

* BISHARAT TOURS CORP. Jordan Intercontinental Hotel. Tel. 41350.

* ROYAL TOURS, Tel. 42089, 44267. * W & K MUSIC SHOP, 5th Circle, Kuzbar Building, 2nd floor.

* ARABIAN HORSE CLUB, Airport Highway.

Ports authority plans to establish maritime school

AQABA (Petra) — The Aqaba Ports Corporation (APC) plans to establish maritime institutes to serve Jordanian and other Arab countries in the field of commercial shipping operations, according to APC Director Mardi Qattamin.

He said that one of the plans entails transforming the present maritime school into a full secondary maritime school to accept students from the first secondary class. This school will be along the same lines as the industrial, commercial, postal, and nursing schools in Jordan, he said.

At present the corporation is holding talks with the Ministry of Education on the possibility of implementing this plan, hopefully in the 1985/86 scholastic year, Mr. Qattamin said. "The projected school should be able to graduate people with sufficient skills to make us in a position to dispense with foreign workers," Mr. Qattamin added.

He said that another plan entails establishing a regional training centre at the school to serve Arab

and Asian countries. "We have reached agreement on this plan with the Arab Ports Corporations Union and a specialised United Nations organisation and the subject will be taken up at the union's coming meeting," Mr. Qattamin said.

The maritime school in Aqaba was established in 1979 to train staff for the corporation, and according to Mr. Qattamin this school, which receives technical aid from West Germany, has turned out many skilled people. From time to time it also holds refresher courses for those employed by the corporation.

Mr. Qattamin urged graduates of secondary schools in Jordan to join the maritime school. He said that trainees receive JD 60 monthly in addition to full accommodation during their training course. After graduation these skilled people will receive JD 150 to JD 200 per month as salary in addition to full accommodation and transport allowances, Mr. Qattamin said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Prince Mohammad conveys condolences

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, the personal representative of His Majesty King Hussein, has delegated Deputy Chief of Protocol Fawwaz Abu Tayeh to convey his condolences to the Ureikat family on the death of Kamel Ureikat.

Two killed as car overturns

AMMAN (J.T.) — Two people were killed and two others injured Thursday in Wadi Al Mujib area when their private car No. 22643 overturned, according to a report in the 'Al Ra'i' Arabic daily, Friday.

Rusaifa roads tender awarded

AMMAN (J.T.) — A tender worth JD 70,000 was awarded for the surfacing of 4,800 square metres of streets in Rusaifa, Rusaifa Municipality is in the process of building a bridge, completing the highway leading to Zerka and constructing a retaining wall.

Iraqi book exhibition to open Monday

AMMAN (Petra) — An exhibition of Iraqi books will be organised Monday at the press department of the Iraqi embassy in Amman. On display in the ten-day exhibition, to be opened by Minister of Culture, Youth and Antiquities Abdullah Oweidat, will be a number of books, photographs and magazines illustrating Iraq's achievements.

Hamami appointed foreign affairs secretary general

AMMAN (J.T.) — The cabinet Wednesday adopted a decision appointing Mr. Hussein Hamami, former ambassador of Jordan to Syria, as Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Mr. Hamami succeeds Mr. Walid Tash who has resigned his post.

Palestinian heritage celebrations now slated for July 30

AMMAN (Petra) — The 1984 celebrations of Palestinian cultural heritage will start here on July 30 and not July 29 as was reported earlier, chairman of the committee organising the event, Mr. Mohammad Milhem, has said.

Mr. Milhem said that the celebrations will be held in Wadi Al Yabis in the north Jordan Valley. Husn camp near Irbid, Baqaa camp and Amman. Mr. Milhem also said that invitations for the performances to be held at the Palace of Culture are still valid.

Mr. Milhem, a deported mayor of the occupied town of Halhoul near Hebron, also said that the committee will take part in the third Jerash festival which will be inaugurated on Aug. 16. Seven Palestinian troupes will take part in the Jerash festival this year, he added.

Shootings at weddings must stop, Arar stresses

Arar reviews administration, public safety with officials

IRBID (Petra) — Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Suleiman Arar Thursday stressed the need to change and develop the quality of the administrative system and to involve citizens, to understand their problems and to work towards solving them objectively.

work and discussed with the officials there means of developing work and facilitating transactions.

Earlier Thursday Mr. Arar visited the border point at Ramtha where he met with officials and discussed means of developing work in the centre.

Mr. Arar was speaking at a meeting in Irbid with administrative governors from the Irbid Governorate during which they discussed a number of issues related to developing the work of administrative governors and public safety.

"We should get rid of the habit of shooting at weddings and should take severe measures against those who do not obey the regulations in this regard," Mr. Arar said. "Such habits should disappear from our life and we have to be firm in stopping such behaviour," he added.

Mr. Arar also called for maintaining cities and villages and called for strict measures to ensure the preservation of public safety.

The meeting, Mr. Arar said, comes within the framework of

the general policy of the government which aims at paying field visits to all sites and dealing with the problems in the places where they take place, with a view to solving them.

Irbid Governor Turki Al Hindawi reviewed the administrative situation in Irbid Governorate and made suggestions regarding the organisation and progress of work in the governorate.

The meeting was attended by the director-general of the Passport Department, Mr. Mohammad Al-Judah, officials from civil departments in the governorate and the director of Irbid police.

Mr. Arar then toured the passport and civil status departments where he inspected the progress of

Phosphates discussed at Arab seminar

AMMAN (Petra) — The exchange of expertise between the Arab phosphate companies and co-operation in the fields of studies, research and technology of phosphate extraction and manufacturing were discussed at a recent seminar in Morocco.

Participants in the week-long seminar also discussed two working papers submitted by the Jordanian delegation. The first paper dealt with the extraction of phosphate from clay while the second paper highlighted the important phosphate discoveries in the north-west part of Jordan.

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ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Friday Al Ra'i: Self-strength not Israeli election

RESULTS OF the Israeli elections again prove that a sense of superiority and fanaticism are the outstanding characteristics of the Israeli community. Therefore, Arabs should re-assess their calculations and future plans in the light of such a situation, regardless of fantasies and dreams, which sometimes lead to conceiving peace as an outcome of a struggle between the good and evil in Israel. In a community like that of Israel, good will never prevail.

Arabs should get absorbed in matters relating to the formation of the new government or whoever might come to power, assuming the future of the cause is related to the new Israeli government. Arabs should not pay any attention to this issue, because whether the Likud, the Maarakh or a coalition of the two parties came to power, it would never do them any justice. Arabs should work on changing their present balance of forces to guarantee a better position for confronting Israel. They should understand that they are responsible for restoring their rights and establishing just and comprehensive peace in the area.

Arab people know and believe that there is no reason precluding the building of self Arab force, and that delay in achieving this is the outcome of Arab differences which lack credibility, if compared with the huge challenges facing the Arab World.

It is time for Arabs to translate the people's will into practices and to shoulder their responsibilities towards their causes. Because this is the only and indispensable way for Arabs to follow. Arabs should not pin hopes on the forthcoming American elections. They should learn from the Israeli elections.

Sawt Al Sha'ab: Religious trends win

RESULTS OF the Israeli elections clearly show that the political conflict in Israel has been settled in favour of the religious extremists, who oppose withdrawal from occupied Arab territories, which they term the land of Israel. The big parties won a majority of votes, yet they did not grasp power, which was won by the extremist religious parties.

A coalition government will be a strong one, but will be under the aegis and conditions of the small religious parties. This indicates that the recent Israeli election did not end the crisis. On the contrary it has flung the door wide open for the continuation of the crisis, but in new forms.

On the Arab side, Likud and Maarakh are not but two edges of a same dagger poised at the Arab body. Neither of these blocs can induce any radical change in the outlook of the Israeli community towards Arabs, land or peace.

Arabs are mistaken if they imagine that Zionist-affiliated parties, be they rightists or leftists, can change their tenors. The political crisis in Israel is experiencing is not a sufficient motive for the Israeli extremists to get closer to the peace line, which curbs their expansionist ambitions and foils their plans.

Thursday Al Ra'i: King leads re-organisation

THE CIVIL service system in Jordan serves as the backbone of the country's development, and therefore it should be strong and sound. This was made clear in King Hussein's message to the prime minister in which he asked that the whole system should be appraised and then re-organised so that it can do a better job and contribute to the development projects.

The King's message revealed his keenness on having a strong civil service system that can give momentum to Jordanian progress and to eliminate all negative aspects that impede development. For this to happen the King ordered a special committee to be set up in order to define the weaknesses and offer the remedy, to introduce amendments and to carry out comprehensive re-organisation for the best interest of the country. Needless to say this move comes in response to the requirements of modernisation and in line with the needs of the five year development plan.

The private sector is called on to help the government pursue its development projects and the royal committee is now expected to find means for this sector to co-operate with the government to see that the Royal directives are carried out in letter and spirit.

Al Dustour: Committee to match developments

THE KING'S message to the prime minister asking him to re-organise the civil service system in Jordan reflects his keenness on maintaining a strong and efficient civil service that can cope with the development and safeguard the country's higher interests. The King made it clear that the education and training offered to Jordanian citizens have produced qualified and dedicated persons, capable of working diligently for their country.

For the country to pursue the course of progress and development, the King said, it has become necessary to overhaul the system with a view to introducing stronger elements that can ensure better performance and better results. This is necessary, the King said, because the country is embarking on a new phase of development and carrying out a five year plan to improve the standard of living for all public sectors. The new and re-organised system is required therefore to cope with the new developments in this stage of modernisation.

Sawt Al Shaab: King keen on civil service

KING HUSSEIN's call for a re-organisation of the Jordanian civil service system is a call for defining the quality, performance and skill of the civil servants prior to boosting their capability to increase their production. It is like conducting a stocktaking to determine the weakness and the strength, and to put the house in order. King Hussein's message contained directives which reflect his keenness on preserving a strong system so that the country's development plans can go ahead unhindered and progress can be achieved.

The King is keen to keep the civil service system sound and safe from all negative elements that might impede development and is keen on giving momentum to development, despite the country's meagre natural resources. For this to happen, the manpower employed in managing the development schemes should be very skilful, and should carry out their work and produce the best quality product they can for the least possible cost. This requires serious co-operation and true dedication and loyalty to the country by all civil servants.

Independent Commission on International Humanitarian Issues

ICHI co-chairmen urge solving Africa refugee problem

The Independent Commission on International Humanitarian Issues, composed of 26 leading personalities in the humanitarian field or having wide experience of government or world affairs, was established in late 1983. Its aims are "to enhance public awareness of important humanitarian issues and to promote an international climate favouring progress in the humanitarian field". The commission is an "independent body whose members participate in their personal capacity and not as representatives of governments or international bodies to which they may belong. Its work is not intended to interfere with governmental negotiation or inter-State relations nor to duplicate work being done by existing governmental or non-governmental international bodies". The message below is from the Co-Chairmen of the Independent Commission, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan on the occasion of ICARA II, reprinted from *Refugees*, a monthly publication issued by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) office, Geneva.

EVIDENCE HAS recently been uncovered that the earliest Man appeared in Africa. That continent, the cradle of humanity, is today facing the awesome risk of becoming the tomb of millions of our fellow human beings. The combined impact of drought and desertification, of poverty and hunger aggravated by attendant social, economic and political upheavals, may leave no part of Africa unaffected. Without becoming prophets of doom and gloom, it is incumbent upon us, as human beings, to face realistically the future and to courageously say and do what needs to be said and done at national, regional and international level, in order to avert tragedy and to bring hope and help to those in dire need.

It is our feeling that the cumulative effect of a series of complex factors may lead, in the years to come, to massive movements of populations within and across national frontiers in Africa. The level of human suffering is the same whether a person is obliged to move from one part of his country to another, or seeks refuge in a neighbouring country. Consequently, it is all the more important that existing problems of refugees and displaced persons are urgently and adequately addressed.

In this context, the Second International Conference on Ass-

istance to Refugees in Africa, ICARA II, is timely. The slogan under which the efforts of the United Nations system, supported by the international community, are placed: "TIME FOR SOLUTIONS", is most appropriate. It is said that time heals wounds but it is sometimes forgotten that time can also deepen and aggravate them. It is unfortunate that refugee problems should be allowed to linger and millions remain waiting for local integration or voluntary repatriation. Perpetuation of a problem often thwarts its solution.

Experience has amply demonstrated that relief aid alone is not enough: it buys time but does not solve problems. The overall question of uprooted people in Africa today, whether they are termed refugees, displaced persons, migrants or undocumented aliens, calls for a fresh and more vigorous concerted approach if it is to be contained and not allowed to degenerate into a continental calamity. Above all, humanitarian response needs to be viewed in the general context of development aid. It is, therefore, encouraging to note that ICARA II will examine, in line with the wishes of the U.N. General Assembly, developmental aspects of aid as much

as the relatively limited aspect of direct relief assistance to refugees. Likewise, the importance of international co-operation to avert new flows of refugees need hardly be emphasised.

More importantly, it is becoming increasingly clear that durable solutions to problems of refugees and displaced persons cannot be promoted without paying attention to their root causes. Going beyond the framework of established definitions and ins-

"Above all, humanitarian response needs to be viewed in the general context of development aid."

stitutional constraints, the international community needs to adopt a comprehensive approach which, on the one hand, takes into account the situation in the countries of origin as much as in the countries of asylum and, on the other, bears in mind the needs of the nationals as much as those of refugees and displaced persons. At the same time, international protection of the unprotected, so essential for preserving physical integrity as much as human dignity, and yet so frequently challenged and threatened, needs fur-

ther strengthening. Time may have come to have a fresh look at established concepts followed by national and international bodies.

The essential work being done in the humanitarian field by international governmental and non-governmental bodies deserves further support. At the same time we must recognise the great tradition of hospitality and resilience in face of adversity which has characterised African peoples since time immemorial. Sometimes, the noble instinct to help tends to underestimate the ability of the needy to face the challenge. We plead for greater empathy as well as sensitivity to what the needy themselves feel and think.

In the final analysis, self-help may be a more decisive factor in promoting speedy and effective solutions than is normally realised. Just as in developing its own Refugee Convention, Africa has demonstrated its ability to confront its specific problems; it must now develop innovative ways to overcome its present predicaments. Of course, what experience has proven valuable must be tenaciously preserved. However, concepts and methods which have not stood the test of time in regard to speedy and effective solutions to refugee problems, must

evolve to keep pace with demands of time.

The Independent Commission, in its review of various humanitarian issues, proposes to examine the overall problem of diverse categories of displaced persons. It is our earnest hope that we will be able to contribute, however modestly, to the search of the international community for practical answers to humanitarian problems.

In formulating our sincere wishes for the success of ICARA II, we wish to reiterate what we affirmed in the Communiqué issued at the end of our last plenary meeting, held in Tunisia from May 4 to May 6, 1984, the first to be held in Africa:

"Our sense of common humanity demands the recognition that the daunting problems faced by Africa are not Africa's alone — whether in their making, their implications, or in the solutions that must be found to them. They are problems which Africa shares with the world. Global co-operation in meeting them is not peripheral but central to the survival of millions of human beings, and is also a test of international commitment to humanitarian values." — Refugees, Geneva.

U.S. fears post-election government paralysis in Israel

By Rodney Pinder
Reuter

WASHINGTON — The failure of the Israeli election to give either of the main political parties a clear victory has raised concern in the United States of a prolonged period of government paralysis in the Jewish state.

While the State Department has made an effort to appear optimistic about future development, some private American analysts said continued uncertainty could increase Middle East dangers.

They said a government with a solid majority in the Israeli Parliament might have been more able to act decisively to break the long Middle East stalemate than one based on a shaky coalition. They added that a politically fragmented Israel could encourage Arab radicals and perhaps create temptations for military adventures.

"I wouldn't predict war, but trends could become very dangerous," said Robert Neumann of the private Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS). "Some Arabs may draw the conclusion Israel is now weak." Mr. Neumann, a former U.S. ambassador to Morocco, Afghanistan and Saudi Arabia, told

Reuters. He called the inability by either the Likud bloc of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir or the opposition Labour Party under Shimon Peres to establish a clear ascendancy "a tale of two Israels".

"The State Department said officially that the election had re-affirmed the value of what it chose to describe as a 'democratic society'."

"We are certain there will be no change in the traditional close co-operation which has existed between the governments and people of the United States and Israel. We look forward to working with the next government... regardless of which party emerges victorious at the polls," a statement said.

State Department officials who spoke on condition they not be identified talked of a lengthy scramble for power in Tel Aviv as the main parties strived to win the support of small groups in the Knesset.

"I think from Israel's point of view a clear outcome certainly would have been desirable," one official said, adding: "A hung parliament creates a certain amount of paralysis until things are resolved, and that could go on for weeks."

The officials said Washington's basic negotiating position on the Middle East was still the Reagan Middle East peace initiative of September, 1982, which calls for autonomy for the Israeli-occupied West Bank in association with Jordan.

One said: "Obviously we support early negotiations."

The outside analysts said the Israeli impasse and the adm-

inistration's pre-occupation with the U.S. presidential elections in November made that appear a forlorn wish.

Some experts had hoped for a clear Labour victory in Israel on the grounds that Labour would be more likely than Likud to make concessions over the West Bank and Lebanon, possibly clearing the way for reciprocal moves by

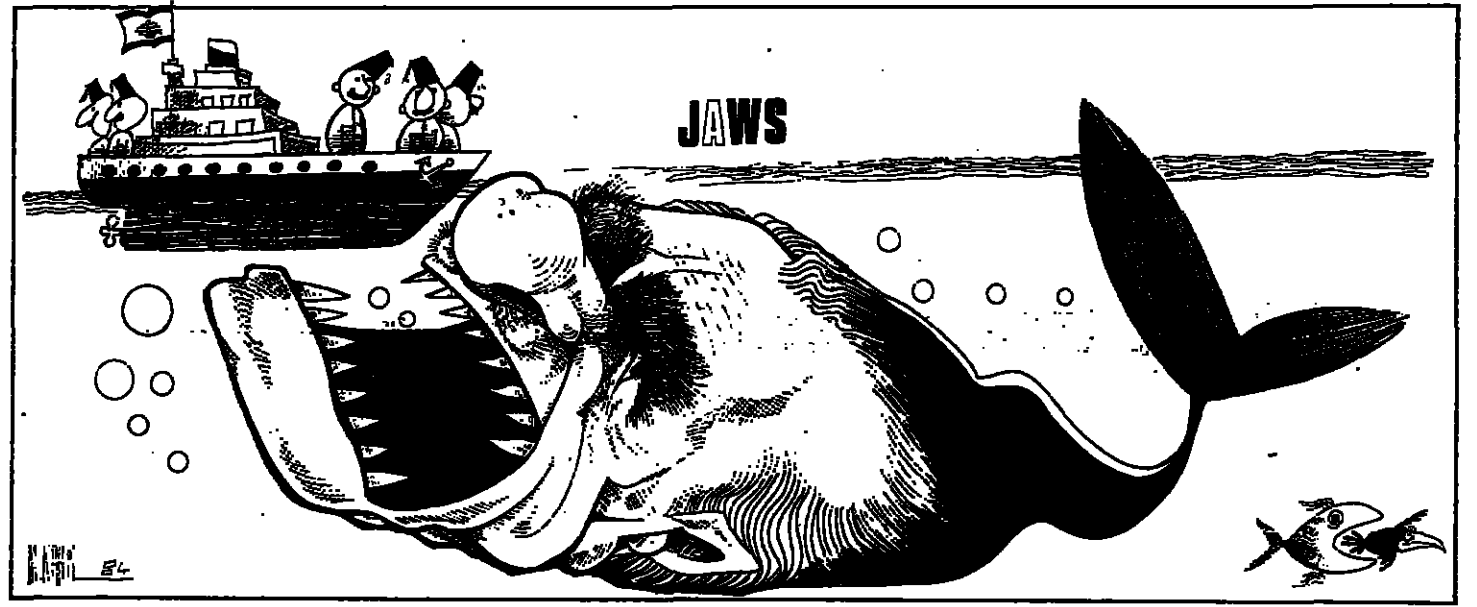
moderate Arab states.

The analysts did not rule out the possibility of Labour putting together a coalition but most said another Likud government, shakier than the last one, appeared likely at this stage.

"There is a considerable risk of a government so stapled together with odd political bedfellows that its room for manoeuvre would be

extremely narrow and it would be difficult for it to take initiatives in foreign or domestic policies," Robert Leiber of Washington's Georgetown University said.

He cautioned against thinking that Israel's political trauma might indicate military weakness. "In a strategic defensive war I think the Israeli consensus would remain unbroken," he said.



Medicine shortage haunts Nicaragua

By Bernd Debusmann
Reuter

MANAGUA — Nicaragua is grappling with a shortage of medicine so severe that even aspirins have vanished and private hospitals often ask patients to bring their own syringes.

Dentists here have begun performing surgery without local anaesthetic. Patients often go into surgery without previous X-rays. Common disinfectants such as iodine are unavailable. So are many types of penicillin, doctors say. Insulin, a life-sustaining medication for diabetics, is in short supply.

Demand for medicines and medical services has risen sharply because of Nicaragua's war against U.S.-backed insurgents along the border with Honduras in the north and the dense jungles of Costa Rica in the south.

The Health Ministry is circulating a list of 512 badly-needed items, from pain-killers to intravenous drip solutions, to foreign countries in the hope of donations. "We suffer from a very severe shortage of foreign currency,"

Deputy Health Minister Mayra Pasos said in a recent interview. "There are many medicines we simply cannot buy."

The shortages are eroding a major achievement of the left-wing government, a health service considered exemplary by the World Health Organisation (WHO), which chose Nicaragua as one of five "model countries" two years ago.

Since the ruling Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) overthrew the U.S.-backed dictatorship of Anastasio Somoza five years ago, the government has opened 300 rural health clinics and extended primary health care to areas which had rarely, if ever, seen a doctor or nurse before.

"Whether one likes this government or not, one has to admit that it made very impressive progress as far as health care is concerned," said a Western diplomat here.

In the past five years, infant mortality has been reduced from 121 to 82 per 1,000 — one of the most rapid mortality declines in the world. A large-scale vaccination campaign virtually wiped

out polio, with no case reported since 1982.

Life expectancy rose from 55.2 years in 1978 to 57.6 last year. Under the Somoza dictatorship, per capita expenditure on health care was estimated at \$18. Last year it was \$50.

Nicaraguan figures show there is one doctor for every 1,555 people, the highest ratio in Central America. Nicaraguans make three times as many visits to the doctor as they did in 1979.

But these advances are threatened by the war between the army, Central America's largest, and an estimated 10,000 right-wing insurgents backed by the United States.

In areas worst affected by the fighting, health services for civilians have been virtually suspended, not least because doctors and nurses run increasing risks in remote rural areas.

According to government figures, 19 health workers — including a West German and a French volunteer doctor — were killed in insurgent attacks last year. Fighting destroyed 22 rural

health centres.

"The aggression is straining our resources in more ways than one," Mr. Pasos said. "We have to spend money on defence we cannot spend on medical supplies. At the same time, we need more medicine and medical services than before."

"Our soldiers need medicines against the parasites and fungus infections prevalent in the mountains where they operate. The wounded need treatment, soldiers as well as civilians."

Lack of medicines is causing widespread grumbling here, particularly among the middle class whose members form the backbone of opposition to the Sandinistas.

State-run hospitals and clinics in Nicaragua provide free health care. "Popular pharmacies" dispense medicines at very low subsidised prices, provided they have been prescribed by doctors of the government health service.

But queues are long, patients due for non-urgent operations are put on hospital waiting lists and the service is often slow.

Former inmates visit Greek prison island

By Bruce Clark
Reuter

YAROS, Greece — Not far from prosperous Mykonos with its fashion shops and film stars, or Syros with its pastel Italianate houses and thriving shipyard, there is another Greek island that few people choose to visit.

As the yellow and desolate hills of Yaros rise out of the Aegean, huge red brick buildings that could only be a prison catches the visitor's eye.

Almost nobody has been here in living memory except as a prisoner or a prison guard, and since the restoration of democracy to Greece 10 years ago last Tuesday after the fall of a military junta, virtually no one has visited Yaros.

But for the past four days, the authorities on Syros Island have arranged tugs and navy ships to take former inmates, journalists and anyone else who was interested to Yaros to view exhibitions, attend wreath-laying ceremonies and hear solemn speeches urging that the island never be used as a prison again.

Hundreds of the men and women who were incarcerated here during the Greek civil war of 1946-49 or the 1967-74 military junta — in many cases both — took advantage of the chance to revisit the prison.

The 10,000 who were brought here in 1947 from jails all over Greece included common criminals as well as sympathisers of the Communist fighters who were battling with the Western-backed National Army.

They lived at first in tents, but the following year they built the main prison, a solid, dreary edifice. Its concrete cells and echoing corridors show no sign of decay 10 years after the fall of the junta.

"We had to carry the stones over our shoulders in huge sacks," recalled civil war inmate George Halalis. "But we didn't just bring the stones to the site. They made us walk up and down the same hill again and again just to tire us."

When Colonel George Papadopoulos seized power on April

21, 1967, the building had been out of use for six years. Four days later he sent 7,000 people there in conditions that the International Red Cross described as a stigma on humanity.

Perhaps prompted by such criticism, Mr. Papadopoulos steadily evacuated people from Yaros over next two years either to freedom or in the case of people classified as "unrepentant Communists" to another prison island, Leros.

But Brigadier Dimitrios Ioannides, the military police chief who overthrew Mr. Papadopoulos in November 1973, re-opened the jail and sent people of the political right, left and centre there until his fall the following July.

Yaros was first used as a place of exile by the ancient Roman dictator Sulla.

Unlike some of the prisons used during the civil war and the junta, this was not a place where deliberate physical torture was practised, former inmates said.

But there was back-breaking labour, overcrowding, poor sanitation and scant provision of revolting, worm-ridden food, which caused widespread disease and frequent deaths.

On their return to Yaros, some former inmates wept. But most seemed to enjoy the day out.

At times there was almost a carnival atmosphere as wizened old men bringing their families to see their former cells laid out picnics on the stone beach below the prison, where somebody had painted: "welcome to the isle of the brave."

"I think it's important that my son should see what I went through," said one veteran Communist.

The best known of the former inmates who braved heavy gales to attend the recent ceremonies was leftist politician Manolis Glezos, newly elected as a European Parliament deputy for the ruling Pasok (Socialist) Party.

Did it give him a feeling of horror to return here? "No," he said with a broad smile. "Just a feeling that it shouldn't happen again."

Iceland seeks more active role in NATO

By Thorsteinn Thorarensen
Reuter

REYKJAVIK — Iceland, the only unarmed member of NATO, is seeking an increased defence role under a new government whose policies the left has dubbed "more rightist than Reagan."

Iceland has never had an army and has no defence minister. But Foreign Minister Geir Halgrimsson, who is largely responsible for the new approach, says the 250,000 islanders should take a greater part in their own defence.

At present, Iceland's defences are entirely in the hands of the 3,000 U.S. servicemen stationed at the Keflavik air base outside Reykjavik under an agreement dating back to 1951.

The government indicated its intention to take a higher defence

profile in May when it attended a meeting of NATO's Military Committee in Brussels for the first time since the strategically-situated island joined the Western alliance in 1949.

The government's growing interest in defence coincides with plans to build two new NATO radar stations, bring in a new generation of U.S. fighters for the American-manned Icelandic Defence Force and expand the facilities at the Keflavik base.

Svarar Gestsson, leader of the Communist-dominated People's Alliance which was in government until 1983, is strongly critical of the centre-right coalition's interest in defence.

"Halgrimsson goes even further than President Reagan in his rightist attitudes. He has clearly taken up a new militaristic policy tying Iceland tighter than ever to

NATO's military net," the Icelandic politician said.

The foreign minister argues that Iceland's defence cannot be seen as a threat to any other country and insists the island will never accept "aggressive weapons".

Mr. Halgrimsson says Icelanders are perfectly capable of manning NATO radar stations on the island and is interested in the possibility of the Icelandic coast guard sharing defensive surveillance missions with the Americans at Keflavik.

So far, the coast guards' role has been limited to fisheries control and rescue services, although they were involved in a so-called "cod war" with Britain in 1975 in which they mainly used wireclippers to cut the fishing gear of British trawlers.

The gap between Iceland, Britain and Greenland is alleged to be

one of the so-called choke points through which the Soviet Navy would have to break through in a war to be able to disrupt shipping in the North Atlantic.

The buildup of the Kola Peninsula as the home of the Soviet Northern Fleet, the Soviet Union's largest and most modern, explains the importance of the Keflavik base and the Icelandic radar.

"Keflavik's role is to defend Iceland in the event of a conflict and be part of the NATO network of collective defence. It is important as a surveillance post for monitoring military air traffic, maintaining a watch on shipping movements and tracking submarines," the Foreign Minister says.

Officials stressed the projects did not represent an upgrading of Keflavik, describing them more as a modernisation.



Talking straight Marwan Muasher

THE GOVERNMENT passed a law last week increasing travel taxes for Jordanians from JD 3 to JD 10 for those tra-

velling by air and to JD 5 for those travelling by land.

Anytime taxes of any kind are raised by any government, the first natural reaction by citizens is to complain, regardless of whether the complaint is justified or not. It goes without saying that nobody is happy about paying additional money, irrespective of whether that person can or cannot afford it. The questions that I want to raise are therefore not related to whether or not the new law is justified, but rather to the interesting social patterns (or the lack of them) that followed such a move.

The first question is one of a legal nature. The government has increased, decreased, or set taxes several times before. The legal issue which, strangely enough, has not been raised is whether the government has the right to such actions without prior approval from parliament. Whereas we did not

have a parliament for 10 years, we do have one now, a body that is concerned (or should be) with all legislative matters, one of which is certainly the issue of taxes. We have the right then to ask why parliament was not consulted?

One does not want to sound unfair and indulge in generalisations, but I think it is valid to wonder, given that the government operated without a parliament for 10 years, whether sometimes the government feels it can bypass parliament? I could be wrong in all of this, and it could very well be within the government's right to issue such laws. One thing I am sure of, however, is that I was not consulted as a citizen through my elected representatives, and I was not informed about the validity or the rationale behind this law. I think it is really sad that the government does not feel the obligation to inform its citizens

about actions such as these, affecting their daily lives, and yet keeps asking those same citizens not to listen to rumours.

The other interesting lack of social response comes from our deputies. I have not talked to any member of our parliament since the imposition of the new regulation, but I suspect our deputies have some opinion vis a vis this new measure. I also suspect some of them do not even agree with it. I imagine that if I am at a private gathering where one or more of our deputies are present, that some will defend the new law, giving their own justifications, while others will speak against it, again offering their reasons. What I do not understand is why our deputies do not feel the obligation to voice their opinions publicly? I understand the parliament is presently in recess, but I also understand that deputies need not limit their public discussions to

parliamentary sessions, and I further expect them to speak their minds on issues that concern their constituents whenever and wherever that is necessary.

The major disappointment remains though that of the lack of any public response on the matter. The sad fact is that apathy runs so deep in our society that people have learnt to take everything that is thrown at them with little reaction. It is not a healthy sign to see people complaining right and left in their private conversations, and yet are not ready to make their opinions known publicly. We have learnt to continually opt for the easy way out, by letting out our frustrations in a moment of two of dissatisfaction, and then convincing ourselves that we have done our homework by merely doing so.

It is a shame indeed that our newspapers continue to ignore

subjects such as these completely, as if nothing has happened at all. I would really like to know what goes on in our editors' rooms, and how they decide upon which subjects to write about in their editorials? Why do we continuously, intentionally, choose to ignore subjects affecting us? I refuse to believe that our government forbids us from discussing such subjects as long as we are operating within the laws of the country. I do not think we are at such a state, as some of our neighbours are, and it would be sad indeed if we were.

The argument has been too often raised that whoever can afford to travel abroad can also afford an extra JD7. That to me is besides the point. The real issue remains what often amounts to a communication gap between the government and the people. I do not think it is too much to ask our government to explain actions

such as these, nor do I think it is off-limits for Jordanians to openly discuss such moves. Parliament, of course, remains not only the ideal place for such discussions, but also the supposed legal one as well. All laws, it seems to me, should emanate from one source, namely parliament, where they are assured of being debated and scrutinised.

We have often seen government officials appearing on TV and answering questions about Jordanian affairs. In many cases, the answers are quite convincing, revealing matters to the average Jordanian citizen that had been previously unknown to him. What bothers me is that we almost always have to wait for someone to ask before we can get answers. The government hardly makes an effort to systematically inform its citizens of what is going on. I am not

asking our government to reveal "national secrets," but I believe we have the right to know about matters directly concerning our daily lives.

The question, therefore, is not one of seven more JD's. It goes far beyond that posing serious questions about our very parliamentary system. More soberly, it highlights the condition of apathy our citizens are in, a condition that especially cannot please the government, as apathy never was a factor in improving countries.

We are certainly to blame for being apathetic about our own country. The government always complains that Jordanians need to have a better sense of belonging to their country. I fully agree. There is a lot of work to be done to remedy the situation, and if the government allows me to say this, some of this work has to come from the government itself.

Film on activist nun beats Filipino censor

By Rosario Liguia
Reuter

MANILA — After challenging the censors and risking the government's wrath, a new Philippine film about a politically-active nun has won box office success here.

In a country still nervously testing government restraints three years after the lifting of martial law, "Sister Stella L" is the first indication that the film industry is ready to add social realism to the soft-core pornography and cops-and-robbers thrillers that are its usual products.

The critically acclaimed "Sister Stella L" tells the story of a nun caught up in labour disputes, social unrest and political agitation, true-to-life subjects rare in Philippine films. It depicts her realisation that she must do more than counsel unwed mothers, that it is her responsibility as a Christian to take a stand on social issues.

The heroine joins a workers' strike, denounces abuses by the company management, is harassed and threatened.

In a sub-plot, a frustrated journalist leaves his over-cautious self-censored magazine to work for a daring opposition newspaper.

"Sister Stella L" had unusual publicity in the weeks before its release because of its presentation of a storyline that mirrors everyday life in the Philippines and for its success in pushing the limits of censorship.

Critics described it as a breakthrough, especially as the censorship board released it without cuts for showing on July 12 in some 40 theatres in Manila and scores more in the provinces. It is still being shown in about six theatres in Manila.

Local newspapers said it earned about a million pesos (about \$50,000) on its opening day and said this was a record for a film departing from the usual themes of crime and sex.

The film, said Director Mike de Leon, is "indirectly critical of the government but it is not subversive in the sense that it advocates an overthrow of the government."

A similar explanation of their

editorial policy is generally given by publications that emerged in the aftermath of the murder last August of opposition leader Benigno Aquino, shot as he returned to the Philippines from the United States.

Opposition magazines flourished, and some faded, in the post-assassination period of demonstrations and protest.

There was an effective boycott of the so-called "crony establishment press" owned by friends of President Ferdinand Marcos. Many readers felt these publications were short on objectivity in reporting the murder and subsequent events.

Some editorial boards do consider themselves part of the opposition, but describe their publications as "constructively critical."

"Sister Stella L" gives a fictitious name to the timid magazine in the film but identifies the crusading newspaper as Malaya, a real-life daily known for publishing stories other major papers prefer not to touch.

The long-established magazine, Mr. and Mrs. now publishes a special weekly supplement virtually dedicated to Mr. Aquino, championing the opposition and challenging the government.

A box on the Mr. and Mrs. mast-head counts the days "since the unsolved murder" of last Aug. 21. Malaya is counting the days until the first anniversary of the assassination.

A thoughtful new weekly, Veritas, is backed by the powerful Roman Catholic Church. It was started by a group of businessmen who aligned themselves with the church in voicing criticisms of government.

Veritas reports alleged military and commercial abuses against tribal minorities and others, government profligacy and general misuses of power.

It reported at length and in detail on violence and alleged irregularities during last May's general elections.

The editor is Felix Bautista, official spokesman of Cardinal Jaime Sin, the plain-talking archbishop of Manila. Those close to the cardinal say he likes to refer to Veritas as "my paper".

Can new president gain young Germans' confidence?

By Friedrich Karl Fromme

Richard von Weizsacker, 64, the new Bonn head of state, doesn't exactly represent a new generation at the top in the Federal Republic of Germany.

He is five years younger than his predecessor, Karl Carstens, or roughly the same age as Carstens was when he assumed office.

Mr. Weizsacker is the sixth Bonn president. All grew up before the war and belonged to generations that got where they were before 1933. They included Theodor Heuss, Heinrich Lübke and Gustav Heinemann.

Since October 1982 a younger generation has held power in Bonn, having earlier come to the fore in the Länder and the Federal Cabinet.

Head of state remains a post for an older generation, but for at least one expectation placed in Richard von Weizsacker as president that is unlikely to matter.

He will, many hope, succeed in persuading the young, say 20- to 30-year-olds, to develop confidence in and loyalty to the state. That is a task a 45-year-old is as unlikely to achieve as someone in his mid-60s.

There is too much dislike of a system of freedom that inevitably entails an element of order. There

is too much disappointment over promises of security that haven't been redeemed.

Yet even among people in this age group, who may roughly be equated with the voter potential of the Greens and "Alternatives," there are no more objections to Mr. Weizsacker personally than to anyone else of his age.

There are not even disapproving remarks about him having served in the Wehrmacht during the war, ending it as a captain.

Even the Alternative List in Berlin, where he was Governing Mayor for three years, viewed him with a mixture of obligatory mistrust and instinctive goodwill.

He has invariably been regarded as somehow "above" day-to-day politics and the criticism it so often encounters in Germany.

Richard von Weizsacker grew up as a diplomat's son, which meant frequent changes of home, although home life was temptingly comfortable (a temptation it was as well not to grow too accustomed to).

His father served in Bern and Copenhagen, returning periodically to Berlin, where the young Weizsacker passed his Abitur, or university entrance exam, in 1937.

He did so early and went on to study in Oxford and Grenoble,

which was unusual in those days. His father's connections will doubtless have helped.

In 1938 he was called up for military service, followed by active service in the World War II, which was why he didn't go back to university until the 1945-46 winter semester.

He read law, interrupting his studies for a while to help with the defence of his father, who was prosecuted by the Americans for his role as a state secretary at the Reich Foreign Office from 1938.

After his law degree and PhD, he worked in the steel industry, banking and pharmaceuticals, quickly rising to senior positions.

But in 1966 he quit his last managerial job for a career in politics. He was also a senior lay churchman as a member and chairman of the council of the Protestant Church synod.

He joined the CDU in 1954, which was early or late, depending on one's point of view.

He is known to have said in retrospect that his decision to join the Christian Democrats was an expression of the slightly resigning end to his quest for a political platform that was both independent and would ensure him of a hearing.

He didn't enter practical politics

until late in life. He was nearly 50 when he first became a Bonn MP in 1969.

His last job in industry was in the Rhineland-Palatinate where he made the acquaintance of Helmut Kohl, who had just taken over as prime minister and was preparing for a career in Bonn.

His attitude toward the Ostpolitik pursued by the SPD-FDP so energetically and, at times, carelessly was both critical and conciliatory.

He absorbed the energy and criticised the carelessness, thereby avoiding giving the impression that his party was totally opposed to a policy about which a majority of Germans were clearly enthusiastic.

In his years as a Bonn MP Weizsacker faced no opposition as he rose to all but the top, becoming a deputy leader of the parliamentary party and a member of the CDU presidium.

His first real challenge came in 1979 when elections were due to be held in Berlin, where the Social Democrats were in the doldrums and looked like losing control.

What the Christian Democrats needed was a candidate for mayor who was in a conciliatory figure and not a divisive personality. Weizsacker agreed to stand.

The result was disappointing. In the March 1979 Berlin elections the CDU polled a mere 44.4 per cent, with the Social and Free Democrats just scraping home with 50.8 per cent between them.

But the SPD-FDP coalition never really got going. Fresh elections were called. Mr. Weizsacker had remained a Bonn MP but was now persuaded to commit himself wholly to Berlin.

In March 1981 he was elected leader of the West Berlin CDU and resigned as deputy speaker of the Bundestag. In May 1981 the CDU polled 48 per cent, or substantially more than the SPD and FDP, who managed to poll only 43.9 per cent between them.

Hans-Jochen Vogel, the SPD mayor, resigned and handed over to Mr. Weizsacker, who headed a minority government supported by several FDP councillors.

In March 1983 the loose ties between the Christian and Free Democrats were consolidated and coalition terms negotiated in the city.

In August 1983 Mr. Weizsacker's name was first mentioned in connection with the presidential elections that were due to be held last May.

He was so non-committal on the subject that it was clear he was

keen. In February he stepped down as Governing Mayor of Berlin. In May he was elected by 833 out of 1,028 votes cast in the electoral college to succeed Karl Carstens.

Hans-Jochen Vogel, Mr. Weizsacker's opponent in the 1981 Berlin elections and now SPD shadow chancellor in Bonn, called on Social Democrats to vote for Mr. Weizsacker as president.

In his desire to become head of state he was able to rely on several qualities that seemed to predestine him for the part. He cut an impressive figure. His credentials were impeccable. He had an air of detachment.

He conveyed an impression of self-evident superiority that gave rise to little or no insult because it seemed so very natural.

He also spoke in a manner that made people stop and think rather than take sides. Mr. Weizsacker has never been regarded as a firmly committed party man.

That was why he was so clearly realised by the Christian Democrats to be the right man for the job of president that they knew objections would be pointless no matter how reluctant they were to see him return from Berlin to Bonn — Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung.

Japanese bachelor blocks bullet train route for 2 years

By Caroline Dale
Reuter

TOKYO — A new route for Japan's famous bullet trains has been blocked for two years by a 53-year-old bachelor who refuses to budge from a rented home standing in the path of the track.

Yoshinori Fukuda's determination to stay in his north Tokyo home means that railwaymen cannot complete a line from Omiya, 23 kms. north of Tokyo, to the city's Ueno station.

And as the law stands they cannot make him move.

Mr. Fukuda is something of a hero to the thousands who oppose the chaotic urban planning that has accompanied Japan's 20 years of transition from a nation of small land-holding communities to its

present industrial sprawl. Some 64 million of Japan's 110 million people are crammed into three per cent of its land space — mainly the cities of Tokyo, Osaka and Nagoya.

Each city stands on a wedge of flat land surrounded by sea, mountain and forest. Their populations spill over municipal boundaries and stretch up the hillsides.

In the 1960s landowners and builders reaped fortunes transforming farmland into concrete homes and factories to cope with the industrial boom.

Tokyo's metropolitan government planned to throw a green belt around the city, in which building low-cost housing outside it. But the boom made land too exp-

ensive for the public purse.

Municipal authorities contented themselves instead with a modified plan which involved building a housing project known as Tama New Town on the edge of Tokyo.

When residents moved there in 1971 they found there was no transport to carry them to their jobs in central Tokyo. The nearest shops were a mile (nearly two kilometres) away and children were a 40-minute walk from the nearest school.

It was left to private railway companies to provide the transport links.

Kiyoshi Tanaka, an economist on the Committee for Land Use and Development at Japan's powerful Federation of Economic Organisations (Keidanren), said

such muddles stemmed from a lack of planning tradition and the laws controlling land use.

City authorities and national ministries had no formal co-ordinating channels, Mr. Tanaka said, so new local housing projects regularly clashed with public road schemes.

The system became bogged down because the Transport, Finance and Construction Ministries had no fixed procedures for dealing with each other, he added.

The Keidanren represents the interests of commercial developers who would like to see legal changes, such as higher tax on farmland around cities, as an incentive for small farmers to sell to developers.

In addition, Mr. Tanaka said: "There are too many nei-

ghbourhoods in Tokyo where planning permission to build above two storeys is not given. Developers give up and build car parks in the centre now as it means less trouble."

Two-storey wooden apartments called "mukuchin", built just after World War II, still abound in parts of Tokyo and Osaka, homes to thousands of families who cannot legally be moved.

Mr. Tanaka said Japanese tenants' rights were too strong and should be curbed. "One person stops a whole block of concrete high-rise apartments," he said.

The Keidanren says the government is responsible for building homes to rehouse low-income families who stand in the way of developers.

But government surveys show

the Japanese are attached to their packed communities. Often several generations live frugally in the same small homes in narrow alleys, sharing bedrooms, bathing communally and taking care of each other.

Sixties-style European high-rise complexes have shot up in Japan's cities but they are causing concern among urban planning experts from the Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

"They are making a bad job of it in the cities," John Zetter, OECD head of urban affairs, told Reuters. "They should keep existing communities together."

Japanese developers were repeating the mistakes which led to the decay of many Western inner cities, he said.

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Reagan to open Olympic Games today

LOS ANGELES (R) — President Reagan returns to the territory where he made his name as a film actor when he performs at the lavishly-produced opening of the Los Angeles Olympics today, Saturday.

At the Los Angeles Coliseum, just down the road from the Hollywood film studios, the president will deliver a set script of 16 words declaring the games open.

On the official programme of the opening, the president's address is the 10th act of a 27-act showpiece which promises to include all the flamboyance expected of the world's entertainment capital.

David L. Wolper, the television producer who made the award-winning programme Roots, is the man behind the ceremony. He has promised "a 20-goose-bump performance." The words may be obscure to most but the intention is clear.

One aim of the opening will be to wash away the memory of the bitter political exchanges that preceded the games.

Just as the Americans stayed

away from Moscow four years ago, the Soviet Union and 14 other countries will be missing from Los Angeles having ruled against inadequate security.

U.S. patriotism will figure large at the opening. Act five is headed 'star spangled banner' and act seven 'music of America' featuring such numbers as 'pioneer spirit' and 'big band swing'.

There will be 84 grand pianos to help the party go with a swing but much of the content is a closely-guarded secret. "You've got to have a few surprises," says Wolper.

One of these surprises was to have been a sloop into the stadium by a bald eagle called Bomber. But Bomber will not be there. The 22-year-old bird died in training.

The serious business of the games is the 15 days of competition starting on Sunday when

the first nine of 221 Olympic titles will be claimed.

Six of these titles would almost certainly have gone to competitors from East European countries had they not stayed away.

Ironically, Romania, the one Eastern bloc country not to join the boycott, stand to win a first-day title as a result. Pistol shooter Maria Macovei is favourite for a gold medal which otherwise might have gone to a Soviet competitor.

China, too, returning to the Olympics for the first time since the 1952 Helsinki Games, should profit from the absenteeism. Flyweight Zeng Guoqiang is a leading contender for the opening weightlifting gold. Success would make him China's first Olympic champion.

China will also be strongly represented in gymnastics and will be looking to world record-holder Zhu Jiahua to win the men's high jump.

But it is the United States who, in terms of medals, will benefit most from the boycott.

In particular they can be expected to dominate the two main

sports, athletics and swimming. In boxing, too, the traditional stronghold of the absent Cubans, they can be expected to do well.

A total of 41 athletics titles will be on offer. Carl Lewis, the American sprinter and long jumper, has his sights on winning four of these, a feat last achieved by his legendary compatriot Jesse Owens in Berlin in 1936.

The supremely-talented Lewis collected golds in the 100 metres, sprint relay and long jump at last year's inaugural World Championships in Helsinki. He hopes to win the same events here.

In the swimming pool, 36 titles will be at stake for racing, diving, water polo and women's synchronised swimming.

The growing role of women in sport is one of the features of these games. For the first time there will be a women's Olympic marathon champion and cycling gold medalist.

The full programme involves competition in 21 sports from archery to yachting and at least 683 medals — gold, silver and bronze — will be won.

U.S. refuses visas to Libyans

LOS ANGELES (R) — The U.S. refusal to grant visas to three Libyans has plunged the boycott-plagued summer games into fresh controversy, with security remaining the biggest headache on the eve of the Los Angeles Olympics.

The State Department cited security concerns as its reason for denying entry to three Libyans seeking to attend the games as reporters.

State Department officials said the men had applied for visas in several European capitals before being stopped in Paris, where they had planned to board a U.S.-bound plane.

Libya's Olympic chief, Bashir Attar-Bulsi, accused the United States of politicising the Olympics, saying the visa refusal put his six-member team "in a bad position" to take part.

"We have tried our best to take part and leave politics aside, but now the United States has made this political move," Attar-Bulsi told Reuters in a telephone interview.

With the opening ceremony Saturday, security for the more than 10,000 athletes from 140 countries is the main concern for the organisers.

But Attar-Bulsi ridiculed the United States for the visa refusals, saying: "It is absurd that a big country like the United States can feel threatened by three people."



OFF THEY GO: His Highness Prince Abdullah Thursday morning signals the start of the fourth Jordan International Rally from the starting point at Amman's Marriott Hotel. Middle

East and Gulf Rally Champion Said Al Hajiri of Qatar was the first to go. Al Hajiri was seeded first to win the rally (Photo by Fernando Francis).

Auckland awarded 1990 Commonwealth Games

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The Commonwealth Games Federation has awarded the 1990 Commonwealth Games to Auckland, New Zealand, and sidestepped a smouldering conflict over English sports relations with South Africa that threatened to disrupt the 1986 games in Edinburgh, Scotland.

The 54-nation federation met for six hours Thursday under the chairmanship of its president, Scotland's Peter Heathley, on the sidelines of Olympic preparations. Before the final vote for the 1990 Commonwealth Games,

Western Australia's capital Perth withdrew in favour of Auckland in what had been a three-way contest. Auckland won with 20 votes against 12 for the Indian capital, New Delhi. Many members abstained, but no official count of the abstentions was made.

The head of the Indian delegation, Air Vice Marshal C. L. Mehta, said he was "bitterly disappointed" at New Delhi's defeat and pledged that the Indian capital will make a new bid for the games later.

New Delhi's defeat appeared to

have doomed the city's hopes of hosting the 1992 Olympic Games. Paris, Amsterdam and Barcelona are front-runners in the contest to be decided in 1986.

The federation set up a committee to study the African Commonwealth nations' complaint that an English rugby Union tour of South Africa this year violated an agreement to ban all Commonwealth sports contacts with South Africa. The agreement was concluded among all the Commonwealth Countries during the Commonwealth Games in Brisbane, Australia.

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Tender documents will consist of three documents one of which will contain the IEE/MechE General Conditions of Contract "B1". Two copies of Tenders must be submitted to IDECO Office in Irbid by 12 noon on the: Sept. 15, 1984 for 25114/01 and 02; Sept. 16, 1984 for 25114/03 and 04; Sept. 17, 1984 for 25114/05.

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Rajiv defends government's handling of Punjab crisis

NEW DELHI (R) — Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's son and political heir apparent, Rajiv, Friday joined a parliamentary battle over Punjab and defended his mother's handling of the Sikh crisis.

Dismissing opposition leaders' attacks on the government for what they said was official delay and uncertainty over Punjab, the 39-year-old former airline pilot charged opposition parties with vacillation and confusion.

One of five ruling Congress (I) secretaries-general, Rajiv said only a strong government could have ordered the Indian army into Amritsar's Golden Temple complex last month to flush out extremists waging a guerrilla war for a separate state.

He praised the troops who took part in the temple assault for their valour and said opposition politicians were responsible for what he said were confused demands by the Sikhs' main party, the

Alkali Dal, for religious and political concessions.

"Because of your confusion you confused the Alakalis. You led them down the garden path," he said to cheers from government benches and shouts of protest from opposition parties.

Mr. Rajiv Gandhi said the Punjab government had decided to recruit half of its civil servants from other Indian states.

"We must find out what the weaknesses were which led to the (Punjab) situation. One was the weakness of the Punjab administration, where the (state) government has now decided to have 50 per cent of people from outside. Is not the situation similar in West Bengal where we could get

into similar trouble?" he said.

After interruptions from opposition parliamentarians, he added: "I only mentioned West Bengal because it is also a border state. Therefore anything happening there is connected with Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir," he added.

Marxist-ruled West Bengal state borders Bangladesh, while Jammu and Kashmir, bordering Pakistan, was plunged into crisis last month when Chief Minister Farouq Abdullah lost his majority in the state assembly and was sacked.

Mr. Rajiv Gandhi's forthright speech came as two major Indian newspapers reported that the prime minister was likely to call early general elections in November.

Rajendra Kumari Bajpai, a Congress (I) general secretary, was quoted by the Times of India newspaper as saying a likely date was Nov. 20 or 21.

The pro-government National Herald newspaper, founded by the prime minister's father Jawaharlal Nehru, also said elections were likely in November.

Elections would not be held before November because monsoon rains often continue until October in some parts of the country, the National Herald said.

Mrs. Gandhi's term of office ends on Jan. 20 and under the constitution, there must be a one month election campaign.

Meanwhile, state-owned All India Radio said another battalion of paramilitary troops has been deployed along the border with Bangladesh to check the infiltration of separatist guerrillas into Tripura state.

The government said Thursday that security forces in Tripura had intensified counter-insurgency operations after at least 12 soldiers were killed by guerrillas in the last month.

Soviets express disapproval of closer ties between East, West Germans

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Union Friday expressed disapproval of closer relations between East and West Germany in a commentary seen by diplomats as evidence of a political rift between Moscow and East Berlin.

A major article in the Communist Party newspaper Pravda charged that Bonn was using political and economic links to undermine East Germany's sovereignty and its Communist system.

It also warned that contacts between the two states could not be divorced from East-West relations as a whole.

The article was written as an attack on West Germany but Western diplomats said it was clearly addressed primarily to East Germany and expressed opposition to its policy of continuing détente with Bonn.

"Relations between the two German states cannot be viewed separately from the whole international situation," Pravda declared.

It said Bonn was using "both economic levers and political con-

tacts" to seek concessions on "fundamental issues concerning the (East German) Republic's sovereignty".

One diplomat said: "The Soviets have been giving ambiguous hints for some time that they do not approve of what the East Germans are doing. Now they have pretty well come out in the open with what is a clear warning to go carefully."

"If things have gone this far, it must mean that there is a very serious rift between the East Germans and Russians on this issue."

Diplomats said the Pravda article appeared intended primarily as a warning to East German Leader Erich Honecker that he should not use a planned visit to West Germany in September to improve relations with Bonn still further.

But they said its appearance two days after West Germany announced a new 950 million mark (\$330 million) credit for East Berlin meant it was also intended to show disapproval of the growing economic links between the two

states. Despite the serious strains in East-West relations and the deployment of new U.S. missiles in the West, links between the two German states have remained stable and even shown signs of improvement this year.

Diplomats said the term "economic levers" used by Pravda clearly referred to Bonn's credits to the East and "political contacts" appeared to include Mr. Honecker's proposed trip to West Germany, the first ever by an East German Communist leader.

Pravda charged that Bonn's attitude to East Germany under the present conservative government of Chancellor Helmut Kohl was increasingly dominated by the "revanchist" goals of re-uniting Germany under a Western system.

It made no direct criticism of East Berlin, but quoted at length from headline demands made by the East Berlin leadership in 1980, when Mr. Honecker called on Bonn to recognise a separate East German nationality.

COLUMN

KUNA editor wins Reuter Fellowship

LONDON (R) — An editor of the Kuwait News Agency has won one of six Reuter fellowships granted to Third World journalists for studies at European and American Universities in the 1984-85 academic year. Reuters announced Thursday, Daoud Suleiman Musa Al Qurneh, a Jordanian, is the first holder of a fellowship at Oxford University created in memory of Najm al Hasan, an Indian correspondent of Reuters killed while covering the Iran-Iraq war a year ago. Qurneh, who joined the agency (KUNA) when it began operations in early 1978 and was promoted to deputy editor-in-chief in October 1982, wants to study managerial systems and research a paper on freedom of expression in the Kuwaiti press.

Actor James Mason dies

CORSEAU, Switzerland (R) — British film star James Mason died in a hospital at Lausanne Friday at the age of 75, a spokesman at Lausanne University Hospital said. Earlier a friend of the actor's family said Mason, star of many Hollywood movies, had suffered a heart attack and been taken to the hospital during the night. Mason was born in the northern English town of Huddersfield on May 15, 1909 and turned to the professional stage after taking a degree in architecture at Cambridge University in 1931. His screen career began in 1935 in low-budget second-bill films. He won international notice as the brutal guardian of a young pianist the Seventh Veil (1945) and as a highwayman in the Wicked Lady (1946) opposite Margaret Lockwood, whose low-cut gowns were considered unusually daring at the time. He leaves behind a son and a daughter from his first marriage, which was dissolved in 1964. He married his second wife, Clarissa, in 1970.

Britain backs poisonous snakes

LONDON (R) — Britain's only native poisonous snakes can continue to slither across the countryside without fear of government interference. A move by Conservative Parliamentarian Sir David Price to eliminate Adders was rejected by the British government. Environment Under-Secretary William Waldegrave said in parliament he saw no need to interfere as only 10 people had died from snake bites since 1900. Sir David called for action against the Adder after finding 18 of them in his back garden.

Immigrant wins \$20m lottery

NEW YORK (R) — Italian carpenter Venero Pagano, out of work for eight years after a fall, says he will use his \$20 million lottery win to visit Australia — then return to New York to grow tomatoes. The prize in the New York State Lottery was the largest single win in the world, topping the previous record of \$15.6 million in the Massachusetts lottery 11 days ago. "I was stunned. I checked and I checked and I still didn't believe it," said Pagano, 63, after hearing his winning numbers read over television Thursday night. He ran into the bedroom of his house in the Bronx to wake his wife Angelina and tell her: "I think we are millionaires."

Doctor to preserve dead wife

NEUIL-SUR-LAYON, France (R) — A 62-year-old French gynaecologist who has kept his dead wife's body in a freezer for several months is not breaking the law, the public prosecutor's office ruled Thursday. Raymond Martinot's wife Monique died in a road accident early this year. Believing he might one day be able to bring her back to life, the retired doctor stored her body at a temperature of minus 60 degrees centigrade. His attempt to turn science fiction into reality worried the local authorities, who asked the public prosecutor's office for a ruling. The office said Thursday that the crypt containing the freezer at the family chateau in Anjou, western France, could be considered a legal burial place. Asked to comment on the case, Professor Pierre Douzou of the Natural History Museum in Paris said: "With our present knowledge, it seems completely utopian to imagine one could resuscitate dead bodies at some future moment."

New Indian troops placed along Bangladesh border

NEW DELHI (R) — Another battalion of paramilitary troops has been deployed along the border with Bangladesh to check the infiltration of separatist guerrillas into Tripura state, state-owned All India Radio said Friday.

The government said Thursday that security forces in the Tripura had intensified counter-insurgency operations.

The state has been hit by separatist guerrilla attacks over the past month and at least 12 soldiers have been killed.

In New Delhi, a West German embassy spokesman told Reuters there was still no information on the arrest of a West German couple in Tripura on Wednesday.

The Press Trust of India (PTI) news agency said the Germans had entered Tripura, banned to

foreigners, from adjoining Meghalaya state. They told police they were tourists and were not aware of restrictions on foreigners.

PTI quoted police sources as saying four other foreigners arrested Thursday by security forces had been identified as Burmese guerrillas who crossed from Bangladesh.

Meanwhile, in the south Indian state of Karnataka, at least two people died when police opened fire on a violent crowd late Thursday night, PTI said.

The incident occurred when demonstrators protesting against a local land dispute in the state's Bijapur district, set fire to two vehicles. Several policemen trying to control the crowd were injured by stones and other missiles. PTI said.

Australian minister stands down over customs affair

CANBERRA (R) — Australian Cabinet Minister Mick Young relinquished his post Thursday pending the outcome of an inquiry into a scandal over a false customs declaration that has become known as "the Paddington bear affair."

Mr. Young, 47, had been given back his job as special minister of state in January, six months after quitting for leaking news that Australia would expel a Soviet diplomat for spying.

But he became involved in further controversy this week after declaring that to the best of his knowledge baggage sent by his wife from Europe did not contain dutiable items.

Customs officials found that the baggage did contain items requiring import duty, including a large toy "Paddington bear", perfume, dolls, handbags and purses. Mr. Young, who later said he

had no idea what his wife's baggage contained, was charged a penalty double duty of 1,093 dollars (\$900) on the goods, valued at 772 dollars (\$630).

Labour Party Prime Minister Bob Hawke said Thursday that Mr. Young would "stand aside" from his post pending an official inquiry into what has become known in Australia as "the Paddington bear affair" after the cuddly toy.

Mr. Hawke said fresh information had come to light and while it was examined Mr. Young would not carry out his duties as a minister, although he would continue to receive his salary.

Two years ago, when Labour was in opposition, Mr. Young led a parliamentary attack against two ministers of the Liberal Party government involved in a row over customs duty.

Ethiopia to host next OAU meeting

NAIROBI (R) — Ethiopian Foreign Minister Goshu Wolde said Thursday the next Organisation of African Unity (OAU) summit will be held in Ethiopia. Addis Ababa Radio reported Thursday.

It quoted Goshu, just back from a tour of several African countries, as saying OAU leaders had agreed that the 20th summit, originally scheduled for Guinea earlier this year but postponed, should be in Addis Ababa, the OAU headquarters.

The decision was influenced by the death last May of Guinean President Ahmad Sekou Toure.

the radio added. It gave no new date for the meeting.

Guinea's new military rulers have said they cannot afford to host the 20th summit because of financial problems.

The radio quoted Mr. Goshu as saying the Western Sahara problem remained unresolved because of Morocco's unwillingness to accept an OAU resolution calling for a ceasefire in the territory and talks between Rabat and Polisario Front guerrillas fighting for the independence of the former Spanish colony.

He said a special OAU com-

mittee on Western Sahara had failed to arrange talks between the two sides.

On Chad, Mr. Goshu was quoted as saying efforts to bring about a peaceful solution had been unsuccessful due to problems of protocol.

He said fresh Chad peace talks that were being planned in Brazzaville, Congo, had now been postponed indefinitely because of problems. Mr. Goshu did not elaborate, the radio said.

But efforts at reconciling the Chadian factions were still continuing, he added.

U.S. to ease sanctions against Poland

WASHINGTON (R) — The Reagan administration has decided to lift some of its sanctions against Poland in response to Warsaw's announced amnesty for political prisoners, the Washington Post reported Thursday.

It said President Reagan's aides were expected to announce next week that bans on Polish Airline flights into the United States and on cultural and scientific exchanges between the two countries would end.

But the Post said the administration was not ready to lift the stronger sanctions imposed in protest at the imposition of martial law in December 1981, including a ban on agricultural credit to Poland.

Mr. Reagan told a press conference on Tuesday that he realised the U.S. sanctions penalised the Polish people as well as the government and said he was studying the possibility of lifting some of them.

Poland's official PAP News Agency said Thursday that at least 3,561 prisoners had been released so far under the amnesty announced over the weekend for 35,000 people, including 652 political prisoners.

It also said that penal proceedings had been dropped or sentences had been reduced in the cases of 7,400 other people.

State television showed prison inmates in the southern industrial centre of Katowice being interviewed before their release.

One woman said: "I am very happy and touched by this amnesty, as are so many other women and men. After I leave I intend to return to my child and get a job." The report did not say why she had been in prison.

PAP quoted Central Prisons Board Director Col. Henryk Skolik as saying he envisaged the amnesty operation would be completed on schedule within the 30

days allotted.

An Interior Ministry official told Reuters Wednesday that apparent discrepancies in amnesty figures issued by PAP, newspapers and other media were normal in view of the complexity of the campaign, in which 35,000 people are due to be released.

"A report may say that arrest has been lifted in relation to so many people, but it may be several hours before they actually leave their place of detention," the official said.

"The situation is fluid because people are constantly leaving. No accurate tally from one hour to the next is possible," he added.

Among the better-known political prisoners released so far are the former second in command of the outlawed Solidarity Movement, Andrzej Gwiazda, and Lodz Solidarity Chief Andrzej Slowik.

Most of those being freed are common criminals.

Ariane officials seek satellite customers

PARIS (R) — Europe's Ariane space project is seeking customers to fill a gap on a multiple satellite launch mission in mid-1986, according to senior space officials.

Michel Bignier of the 11-nation European Space Agency (ESA) says the Ariane-4 rocket is due to put four satellites into orbit.

But one, a French weather satellite called Athos, would not be ready in time. ESA was therefore seeking a customer wanting to put a 700-kilogramme satellite in geostationary orbit, he told a news conference here earlier this week.

"Of course we will offer a very preferential price," Mr. Bignier, director of ESA's Space Transportation Systems, said.

Charles Bigot, director-general of the ArianeSpace Consortium, told Reuters his group had already contacted potential clients and would discuss "an interesting price".

ArianeSpace, a West European industrial and banking group, has been gradually taking over management and marketing of the Ariane programme from ESA.

The rocket, to be launched from the European Space Centre in French Guiana in north eastern

South America will also carry a weather orbiter and two amateur radio satellites.

Mr. Bignier said it was possible the Europeans would participate, in the short term, in a U.S. orbiting space station due to be launched in 1992.

But they were going ahead with plans to develop their own station by the turn of the century, he said.

"We are thus obliged to go a bit further along the road with the Americans. But we must put our cards on the table by telling them that our long-term objective ... is European independence."

Peruvian leader struggles to keep democracy

LIMA (R) — Peruvian President Fernando Belaunde Terry, who marks his fourth anniversary in power on Saturday, enters his final year in office struggling to sustain his democratic government amid economic gloom and spreading rebel insurgency.

Hamstrung by civil service unrest, a growing military presence and Latin America's severe recession, Mr. Belaunde still vows to become the first elected Peruvian leader to complete his presidential term since 1945. He was toppled by the military in 1968 during the final year of his first presidential term.

His comeback in 1980 after 12 years of military rule marked the beginning of South America's shift towards democracy and away from military governments.

"His eyes are constantly on the history book because he wants to anchor Peru into a democratic tradition by handing power to an elected successor," one diplomat said.

Mr. Belaunde will mark his anniversary on Saturday with a speech aimed at highlighting his achievements so far.

An architect by training, Mr. Belaunde, 71, is expected to stress his government's record in bui-

lding or improving 340,000 homes and in constructing 900 kilometres of a jungle highway which he believes holds the key to opening up the Peruvian Amazon's agricultural riches.

A more sensitive topic will be the Maoist Sendero Luminoso (shining path) guerrillas whose violence this year has cost an estimated 1,400 lives — nearly half the total killed in their four-year-old campaign against the government.

The accelerating rebel drive prompted Mr. Belaunde this month to overcome his reputed wariness of the military and put the armed forces in charge of all anti-insurgency operations.

Political analysts say his long reluctance to grant the military a commanding role stems from fear it would give way to a coup. But despite Sendero's strategic threat, public opinion pollsters say the country's recession has been much more important in shaping the Peruvians' view of their government's ability.

A drop of nearly one-third in workers' living standards since 1980 has led to five general strikes, including two since September. Last month it sparked what Labour leaders said was the

biggest civil service strike in Peru's history.

Some analysts predict the slump alone, including a 15 per cent drop in Peru's gross domestic product since 1982, could endanger democratic freedoms.

"The popular pressure caused by recession can only be controlled by a dictatorship or a government dictating radical, populist measures," Historian Pablo Macera told Reuters.

The political cost of the deteriorating economy was reflected in the crushing defeat of Mr. Belaunde's Popular Action Party (AP) in nationwide municipal elections last November.

Pollsters feel the Social Democratic Apra Party has the greatest prospects of winning the 1985 elections, but they do not rule out a victory by the likely candidate of the Marxist-led United Left (IU), Eima Mayor Alfonso Barrantes.

But some political analysts say that whatever the outcome, none of the likely presidents will match Mr. Belaunde's personal charisma.

"No matter how bad things get, Mr. Belaunde usually manages to keep above the 20 per cent personal popularity level," one political pollster told Reuters.

Nicaraguan rebel groups unite

PANAMA CITY (R) — Leaders of two U.S.-backed Nicaraguan rebel groups agreed to fight in union for the downfall of Nicaragua's left-wing government, a spokesman for one of the groups said.

Adolfo Calero of the Honduras-based Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN) and Alfonso Robelo of the Costa Rica-based Revolutionary Democratic Alliance (ARDE) signed the pact after weeks of secret negotiations, an ARDE spokesman said.

"The union will give us more strength and will enable the triumph for which the Nicaraguan people long," the spokesman quoted Mr. Calero as saying. The groups agreed to fight for "a return to democracy and a pluralistic government," he said.

The pact follows last month's expulsion by ARDE of its former military chief, Eden Pastora.

Mr. Pastora, known as "Commander Zero", was a hero of the 1979 Sandinista revolution which overthrew Nicaragua's rightist Dictator Anastasio Somoza. He later became disenchanted with the Sandinists and joined the rebels.

He refused to merge his 2,500-man force with the stronger FDN because many FDN members are former National Guardsmen who served under Mr.

Somoza. Political sources said the CIA, which finances both guerrilla groups, has been pressuring them to unite.

The U.S. Congress, however, has failed to approve a Reagan administration request to give the rebels an additional \$21 million this year.

The pact comes at a time when the Honduran government has closed four FDN facilities and ordered the 10,000-strong force to keep a lower profile in Honduras.

Earlier Wednesday ARDE, badly fragmented by internal rifts, said in a statement from Costa Rica it would lay down arms if the Sandinists agreed to meet opposition demands over Nicaragua's November general elections, the first since the revolution.

The demands by the Democratic Co-ordinator — a coalition of four conservative parties — include an amnesty for guerrillas to participate in the poll, the end to a state of emergency in effect since 1982 and the lifting of press censorship.

A high-ranking Sandinist official said this week the government would make no further concessions to the opposition and the state of emergency could not be lifted as long as the rebels continued to operate.